



MAIL SUPPLEMENT. The Hongkong Telegraph.

No. 412.

THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1883.

SIX DOLLARS
PER QUARTER.

MARRIAGES.

At the Registrar General's Office, on Monday, the 14th May, 1883, EDWARD S. WOLFE, of Kingston, Jamaica, W.I., to Miss ROSE MATTHEW of Sydney, N.S.W.

On March 29th, by the Rev. J. Moore, D.D., WM. GEORGE PEARNE, R.N.R., commanding S.S. *Arabia*, of the Occidental and Oriental Company, to ELIZABETH, only daughter of John Fitzgibbon Geary, Esq., M.D., of Marathon Park, Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, California.

The Hongkong Telegraph
MAIL SUPPLEMENT,
ISSUED GRATIS TO ALL SUBSCRIBERS.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, MAY 24, 1883.

It was CERVANTES, the brilliant author of "Don Quixote," who satirically remarked that "all persons are not discreet enough to take things by the right handle." To none of our local political, commercial and social reformers can this somewhat unique satire be more justly applied than to Mr. F. BULKLEY JOHNSON, unofficial member of the Legislative Council, Chairman of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, &c., &c. It has been currently reported for some time past that Mr. Johnson will shortly take a permanent farewell of the Colony, and as we have good reasons for believing that this report is substantially correct, it will not be out of place to indulge in a general survey, and see for what benefits and improvements we are indebted to the honourable gentleman who came amongst us with such a flourish of trumpets more than two years ago.

When Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON first posed at the Legislative Council meetings as an advocate of progressive measures, a radical reformer in the true sense of the term, we rejoiced greatly that the strength of the representatives of the public interests in the councils of the government had been so materially reinforced. The temporary occupant of the throne of "the princely house" lost no time in showing that he fully intended taking a prominent part in the management of the affairs of the colony, and the exposition of his general views, according to his own showing, based on principles of such an enlightened and a liberal character that we felt justified in indulging in the hope that at last the routine of governmental red tape and arbitrary obstruction would receive a check. Unfortunately our anticipations never practically realised. It is the mark of a great mind to be firm in matters of real weight and importance, and of a weak one to be inflexible in little things. Men of actual ability who accomplish great works in this world do not bother themselves with paltry squabbles, or indulge in remote and visionary aims; they mark out the course they have to follow and the work they have to accomplish, and steadily persevere through all difficulties until success crowns their efforts. Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON quickly proved himself the reverse of all this; he introduced and propounded many sensible measures of practical reform, wasting many valuable hours in showering the fragrance of his polished eloquence on the desert air of the Council Chamber, wearying and worrying unappreciative and wearied legislators, who were quite unable to follow the honourable gentleman's flights of fancy, but, excepting in private and personal squabbles of the ERZL V. HAYLAK description, the decision and determination of the man of action were painfully conspicuous by their absence; and as a result, at the end of two years a political career, which might have been made a single noteworthy action and can only be set down as a most disappointing failure. The self constituted representative of public interests who relies solely on fair words is like one who feeds the sick with an empty spoon and talks all the time about grief. Mr. JOHNSON has been incessantly talking, feeding the public with long drawn-out harangues advocating improvements and reforms, but his exertions have never gone beyond the region of empty words; he meant well no doubt, but he lacked the necessary discretion "to take things by the right handle."

We have frequently expressed our belief that Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON was a well known reformer, whose want of success may be in the fact that his pretensions far exceeded his abilities. This, we think, has been shown on many occasions, and we need only refer to the Tramway scheme, which originated with Mr. JOHNSON, in proof of our assertion. When this measure was first brought forward, the sanguine promoter confidently spoke of the whole business being settled within a few months. His overweening self-confidence blinded his better judgment, for we see that the tramway system has not yet become an accomplished fact and from Mr. JOHNSON's latest utterances on the subject, we should imagine that the realisation of the honourable gentleman's hopes in that direction is as far off as ever. In looking round the island we are unable to see one single improvement for which we are indebted to this legislator from whom so much was expected. And yet Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON has not been going about Hongkong for over two years with his eyes shut. We frankly concede that he has brought forward many schemes of reform and improvement well worthy of the attention of both the Government and the public, and we can only regret that, probably owing to differences with Sir JOHN PORE HENNESSY which apparently occupied a great deal of his spare time, he never made an opportunity of following up his practical suggestions.

In his celebrated oration at the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on March 14th, Mr. JOHNSON made the following observations, some of which are deserving of special attention:—

"I need not tell you," said the honorable member, "that the unofficial members of the Legislative Council are not representative in any sense. We are nominated by the Government, we have no real power, we cannot exercise any effective control over expenditure, and there is left to us only a very modified power of protest. We for the most part attend the meetings of the Council simply to register the foregone conclusions of the Executive, which conclusions are very often merely those of some departmental clerk in the Colonial Office. I think this is a state of things which in the present advanced position of the colony should not be allowed to continue, and I have taken this opportunity of referring to the subject. Because I think that with the advent of a new Governor some steps should be taken to obtain some measure of control over our own affairs. Had there been any popular element in the Government of the Colony, I would ask if it would have been possible for an administration of mischievous incapacity to stay the progress of necessary public works, to postpone measures of sanitation and education, and deprive us of an adequate supply of water during its full term of office? And though I desire to speak with all respect of the able men who are now administering the affairs of the colony, and who are doing their best to make up the leeway of the past five years there is much required to be done which is not in their programme, or possibly within their power. I would ask what is at the present moment the pressing want of this colony, and I reply it is elbow room for the increasing population and the numerous industries that would probably find a home here if they were fostered by the Government, especially at a time when the suicidal policy of the Chinese Government is driving them away from China. I would ask for what good reason it is that this town is divided into two parts by the suspension of direct communications. What we require are reclamations along the entire sea front, and a widened praya made continuous from Belcher's Bay in the West to Causeway Bay in the East. If we managed our own affairs how long would it be before a tramway which is proposed for streets which are too narrow for it would run for the whole length of a continuous praya, and before the malarious swamp at Causeway Bay would be converted into a flourishing township? I hope some energetic action may be taken in this matter during the administration of the new Governor."

Our new Governor has been here for some considerable time, but as yet we have heard nothing of the "energetic action" advocated by Mr. JOHNSON, for the amelioration of what are undoubtedly serious grievances. Can the honourable gentleman do nothing to inaugurate a movement which may tend to induce the Government to grant the residents of Hongkong some measure of control over their own affairs? Can nothing be done by such an influential citizen to make the Secretary of State recognise the necessity of making the Legislative Council in some sense a representative body? In the interests of the government as well as of the public, Mr. JOHNSON should see his way, as a member of the Council, to officially bring before Sir GEORGE BOWEN the absolute necessity which exists for more "elbow room" by an ever increasing population! In all these measures, the success of which would make Mr. JOHNSON in reality a public benefactor, he may safely rely on the hearty support of the community and the press.

If Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON desires to place his name on the scroll of fame as a practical benefactor of the colony of Hongkong he will have to do more than make mere suggestions, however valuable they may be. The reforms indicated in several of the honourable gentleman's public addresses are admittedly improvements which would materially enhance the commercial prospects of the island, effect important social requirements and generally benefit the public at large. But to accomplish any or either of these projects requires prompt and decided action. The old fashioned and unwieldy machine of colonial government—colonial governmental mismanagement would perhaps be more accurate—has been running so long in the present groove, that the drivers of the concern may object strongly to anything in the shape of modern innovations. Objections founded on self interest are not to be removed by the windy platitudes of even such an accomplished rhetorician as Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON; a resolute movement headed by the chiefs, and supported by the general body of the community is the only means likely to lead to the desired improvements. With Governor BOWEN in favor of enlightened reform much might be accomplished. However, we are not particularly sanguine of anything for the public weal being achieved through Mr. JOHNSON. He has so frequently promised to electrify us with his wonderful schemes for the public benefit, all of which have ended as they began in idle words, that we have lost all confidence. The honorable gentleman's public career in Hongkong has been one long continued failure; he has "never" discreet enough to know how to take things by the right handle, and he apparently has yet to learn that Heaven never helps the man who will not act.

In the last annual report of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce, under the heading "Taxation on Trade, Harbour, and Light Dues, Emigration fees, Junk licenses, and the Stamp Act" we read:—

"Your Committee have had, under their consideration the various taxes upon trade levied in the Colony. The first subject which has engaged its attention has been that of Light dues, and it will be seen from the figures given in the appendix that there is a just ground upon which to claim a reduction of the present rate."

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From a document forwarded to us by His Excellency the Governor, it would appear that the committee of the Chamber of Commerce have promptly followed up the public expression of their views, by waiting upon Sir GEORGE BOWEN at Government House and suggesting either a reduction or a total abolition of the Light Dues, and certain other charges on shipping. What was said or done by the deputation of the Chamber of Commerce on the occasion referred to, we can only guess, as, for reasons which under all circumstances are not particularly difficult to comprehend, such a course was contemplated. However, from the tenor of Sir GEORGE BOWEN's reply, it may be safely assumed that the arguments adduced in favor of the abolition of the Light Dues, or as the Honourable F. BULKLEY JOHNSON prefers to put it—the abolition of an unjust tax on trade, were identical with the views contained in the report and in the speech of the Chairman, printed above. We also assume that the Governor declined to pledge himself on the spot to any definite decision, but promised to give the matter his best consideration. The question has no doubt been carefully gone into by His Excellency, and eventually the petition of the Chamber of Commerce has been rejected in a most elaborate manifesto, issued on the 11th inst.

As Lord KIMBERLEY stated some eighteen months ago that while there were so many much needed public works in the Colony still to be undertaken he would not be ready to sanction any measures diminishing the source of revenue, the refusal of Governor BOWEN to take any steps towards the abolition or reduction of any form of existing taxation, could scarcely come in the light of a surprise to those who had thoughtfully considered our present financial position, and the many necessary improvements the ever increasing wants of the colony have rendered indispensable. The inconsistency of the Hon. BULKLEY JOHNSON, who has incessantly been urging upon the Government and on the community the desirability of undertaking most expensive and gigantic schemes in the shape of wider streets, extended praya, wall, reclamation of the swamp at Causeway Bay, and other undertakings of a similar character, in constituting himself the special advocate of the remission of a just, necessary and unusually lenient tax which presses hardly on no particular interests, is one of the most glaring anomalies in a public career which has been a striking anomaly from beginning to end. How men of business like the members of the deputation from the Chamber of Commerce could ever have expected an accomplished and experienced practical politician like Sir GEORGE BOWEN to favor such a crude and manifestly unfair measure of class legislation as the proposed abolition of all taxation on the shipping using our harbor for commercial purposes, must be an enigma even to themselves. But did they ever anticipate a favorable result? We scarcely consider it probable, excepting in the case of the Chairman, whose Utopian notions must not be judged by the same standard as the views of ordinary men of the world. And yet the action of the Chamber of Commerce has done some good. It has elicited from the Governor what may be considered the basis of His Excellency's political programme. Sir GEORGE BOWEN's reply to the Light Dues deputation is something more than a mere decision on the points raised by that body. It defines, perhaps somewhat vaguely in several instances, the broad lines on which our new ruler intends to govern the colony. It is a mainly declaration of a liberal and enlightened policy which, if carried out—"ay, there's the rub"—will make this dot on the ocean a model to all other colonies, and entitle Sir GEORGE BOWEN to the eternal gratitude of the community and the distinguished consideration of Her Majesty's Government. We append a copy of this important document, and as space will not permit us to deal fairly in one issue with the many questions touched upon by the Governor, we shall devote attention to the various subjects of public importance in a series of articles carefully reviewing and analysing the most remarkable of these projects of practical reform.

The following is the reply of His Excellency to the deputation from the Chamber of Commerce:—

Gentlemen—I have great pleasure in receiving this deputation from the Chamber of Commerce, the most important body in Hongkong, which is celebrated not less as a great emporium of trade, than as a Naval and Military Station of the first class. It will always be alike my duty and my pleasure to give my earnest attention to any representations which may from time to time be laid before me by gentlemen who have so large a stake in this Colony, and such a well-informed appreciation of its circumstances and requirements. I have listened with attention to the arguments which have now been laid before me, and I have perused with care the former letters from the Chamber of Commerce to the late Administrator of the Government on the subject of the Light Dues. I understand right, the main argument in favor of the abolition or reduction of what is termed the "Taxation of trade" is: that as Hongkong is a Free Port, it is illogical that Light, or other Port Dues should be so levied as to produce a revenue over and above the necessary departmental expenditure. In other words, it appears to be contended that, for example, the Light Dues should merely cover the cost of their collection and the maintenance of the Lighthouses, &c. I am ready to admit that there is much logical force in this argument. But unfortunately, all practical experience shows that the world never has been governed, and never will be governed, by pure logic. There are manifold anomalies and inconsistencies in the fiscal systems of all countries.

The real practical question for consideration is one to which I gave my attention immediately after my arrival in this Colony. It is this: Is the revenue of Hongkong of such amount in comparison with the necessary expenditure, that the reduction of any existing tax is practicable without finding an equivalent in some new form of taxation.

The Colonial Secretary and Auditor General (Mr. Marsh), whose accuracy and impartiality are known to all, has furnished me with the following facts and figures on this subject:— The balance of assets is, in round numbers, \$1,150,000. Now without taking into account the reclamation of Causeway Bay, and the widening of the Praya, which I should much like to see taken in hand as soon as possible, the Public Works almost commenced as urgently needed, such as the Water-Works, the extension of the Gaol, the new Central School, the necessary repairs to the Police barracks, and the new Water Police Station, with its appurtenances, are estimated to require, in round numbers, \$1,300,000. To this amount we must add the Sanitary expenditure which is considered by Mr. Chadwick (the Civil Engineer recently sent out from England to report on the Sanitary condition of this Colony) to be absolutely necessary to ward off the imminent danger of a severe epidemic. This expenditure is estimated at not less than \$200,000. It will be seen, therefore, that while the assets are only \$1,150,000, the necessary expenditure will be \$2,500,000, a sum equal to more than double the assets.

Of course there is the obvious alternative of following the example of most nations and colonies, by raising a moderate loan for public works of a permanent character, the whole burden of which cannot be fairly cast upon the present generation. I believe that Hongkong is the only community of importance in the world which is absolutely without public debt. I am, myself, in favour of a loan of the character to which I have referred; but this is a question which must be decided by the Legislative Council, with the sanction of the Imperial Government.

There is little prospect, under the circumstances stated above, of the Imperial Government sanctioning any remission of taxation. Indeed the Secretary of State has already delivered his decision in this matter in a Despatch (No. 170 of the 9th December 1881) which has already been laid before the Legislative Council. It is there stated:—"Any change in the direction indicated will require careful and detailed consideration: but at present, while there are many much needed public works still to be undertaken, I should not be ready to sanction any measure diminishing the sources of revenue."

Such being the broad state of the case, it would be superfluous for me to enter at present upon any minute examination of the details of all the subjects to which my attention has been directed. I may, however, observe that the proposed reduction of the Light Dues raises a somewhat difficult and delicate question. I am advised that the Licenses on Chinese Junks are regarded as an equivalent for the non-payment by them of the Light Dues; and that if the latter are reduced it would be equitable that the former should be reduced also. Now the Light Dues and Junk Licenses together produce an annual revenue of about \$400,000; it is, I am aware, feared that the Colony cannot afford at present to dispense with any portion of this sum.

Again, it should be remarked that the Light Dues at Hongkong are only 1 cent. per ton of the shipping; whereas at Singapore, which is also a Free Port, they amount to 10d. per ton, i.e., three times as much as here. At Mauritius and other Colonies these dues appear to be still higher than at Singapore. It should be remembered, moreover, that the Colony of Hongkong appears to pay in aggregate taxation less per head of its population than any other British Colony of importance.

I refrain from going further into details at the present moment. It is obvious that after the decision of the Imperial Government referred to above, the Governor would not be justified in taking steps towards the reduction of taxation, without previous authority from home, even if he were more convinced than I can confess myself to be, that such a reduction would be desirable, and logical in itself, is just now within the scope of practical politics. But if the Chamber of Commerce will present me with a full statement of its views and wishes, I shall have much pleasure in transmitting that statement to the Colonial Office, where it is sure to receive the respectful attention due to any communication emanating from so important and representative a body. I shall, however, the Chamber may prefer to see the question of the Light Dues, as it is connected with it, submitted in the first instance, to the deliberations of a re-constituted Legislative Council. For, in conclusion, gentlemen, I may take this opportunity of stating that I have satisfied myself that the present constitution of the Legislative Council of this Colony is wholly inadequate for the proper discussion and settlement of our public affairs. I firmly believe that the community at large will be better represented and satisfied, while the Government will be more fully informed, and at the same time, strengthened by the weighty support of public opinion, if the unofficial element is considerably increased. At the present moment there are really only two unofficial members. I shall propose forthwith to Her Majesty's Government that for the future there shall be six unofficial members; and that the system which has worked successfully in Ceylon shall be adopted also here. I mean that two of those six members should be, as a general rule, appointed on the recommendation of the Chamber of Commerce, and one more at least on the recommendation of some other public body, such as the Bench of Justices of the Peace. One of the six unofficial members will of course be chosen from among our Chinese fellow subjects. It will be remembered that representatives of the native communities have, for many years past, held seats in the Legislatures of British India, Ceylon, New Zealand, and the Straits Settlements.

Without going further into details at present, I believe that you, gentlemen, will agree with me in thinking that a system of the nature thus shadowed forth will confer on the Colony most of the advantages, without any of the drawbacks of popular election; which, for obvious reasons, is impracticable in a heterogeneous community, circumstanced as is that of Hongkong. Should the Imperial Government sanction my proposals, I feel confident that the Colonial Government and Legislation will derive valuable assistance from the knowledge and ability of the gentlemen recommended by the Chamber of Commerce. The official and the unofficial members alike can have no object in view but the general welfare of the Colony; and I am sure that we shall all work together cordially towards that common object.

Although willing to concede that Sir GEORGE BOWEN's proposal to increase the numerical strength of the unofficial element in the Legislative Council of Hongkong may fairly be taken to indicate His Excellency's desire to remove what has undoubtedly been for a considerable time

past very unfair treatment of the community, and also as the initiatory movement in a lengthy programme of liberal and enlightened measures of reform, we must not allow ourselves unthinkingly either to over estimate or to place a fictitious value on what at first sight may appear a most generous concession. Governor BOWEN has, according to his own statement, already satisfied himself that the present constitution of the Legislative Council is wholly inadequate for the proper discussion and settlement of our public affairs, and firmly believes that the community at large will be better represented and satisfied, while the Government will be more fully informed, and at the same time, strengthened by the weighty support of public opinion, if the number of unofficial members is considerably increased. A person inclined to cavil might be inclined to ask how Sir GEORGE BOWEN, who has only attended one meeting of the Council and that on the occasion of his taking the oaths of office, can pretend to know whether the present constitution of our legislative assembly is satisfactory or otherwise; however, as no useful end can be served by being hypercritical in unimportant matters of detail, it is sufficient for us that His Excellency's expression of opinion is only too well founded. Now let us briefly glance at the changes (?) proposed.

Governor BOWEN, after premising that there are at the present moment only two unofficial representatives, promises forthwith to recommend to Her Majesty's Government that for the future there shall be six unofficial members. With all due respect to His Excellency, we would beg leave to point out that his statement as to the present strength of our unofficial legislators is not quite accurate, and further that, if Earl Derby sanctions his proposal to increase the number to six, we shall only be in exactly the same position in regard to the relative strength of the official and unofficial sections as when Sir JOHN PORE HENNESSY left Hongkong. The unofficial members two years ago were Messrs. P. RYAN, W. KESWICK, NO CHOY, J. M. PRICE, F. BULKLEY JOHNSON and E. R. BELLIOS. So far as the community is aware the whole of these six gentlemen are still members of the Council. If such is not the case, we are quite certain that many citizens of this Colony would be glad to know which of them have ceased to represent our interests, and for what reasons. The place of Mr. KESWICK, we are of course aware, was taken by Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON, thus reducing the effective strength of the non-official element to five, but then the appointment of the Registrar-General to a seat at the Council must be taken as a set-off against the sixth unofficial member now advocated by the Governor. Messrs. RYAN, JOHNSON, PRICE, and BELLIOS are still in the colony, and if either of them resigned, we assume that it was the duty of the officer administering the government to appoint, in the interests of the public, a suitable citizen to the vacancy. Mr. NO CHOY has been absent from Hongkong for a considerable time, and we learn that in all likelihood his return may be delayed for an indefinite period; however, be that as it may, we consider that if it were imperative to appoint Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON to temporarily take the place of Mr. W. KESWICK it was equally as necessary to appoint a Chinese member of Council as *locum tenens* for Mr. No Choy. It is only fair to state that for all the late bungling and blundering in our legislative affairs Sir GEORGE BOWEN can in no way be held responsible. That eminently respectable official the Honourable WILLIAM HENRY MARSH C.M.G., and "the other able man who administered (?) the affairs of the Colony from the departure of Governor HENNESSY to the arrival of his successor, would appear to have a good deal to answer for!

The project advocated by Sir GEORGE BOWEN that the number of our unofficial legislators shall be permanently increased has our hearty approval, and we see no reason to doubt that EARL DERBY will sanction what, after all, is really no innovation. As above stated, to Governor HENNESSY belongs whatever credit may be due for raising the strength of the unofficial element to the figure now proposed; by Sir GEORGE BOWEN, and it may be noted that the former ruler earned for himself no inconsiderable amount of ill will for what was considered at the time an outrageous infringement on the assumed rights and privileges of a chosen few. For appointing a Chinese legislator to represent the views and interests of the influential Chinese residents of Hongkong, Governor HENNESSY was not only not abused and vilified by a *press* and a prejudiced and narrow *public* autocracy, and yet we see that, both with regard to the number of unofficial members and the introduction into the Council of a Chinese element, the greatly maligned policy of the so-called "Merciful Man" has been, so far, faithfully adhered to by our present ruler.

In writing the other day on the proposed re-constitution of our Legislative Council we suggested that, as it is understood the community at the present time only possesses two representatives, there were no sufficient reasons why His Excellency the Governor should not at once bring up the complement to its full strength by appointing two new members to take the places of those who have either resigned or are absent on leave, without waiting for the approval and sanction of the Secretary of State for the additional unofficial representatives recommended by Sir GEORGE BOWEN. As the fairness of our suggestion can scarcely fail to commend its consideration, if not its immediate adoption, to His Excellency, a

few general observations on the claims of probable candidates for one of these appointments may not be deemed ill timed or out of place.

Since Governor HENNESSY honored Mr. NG CHOW by appointing him to a seat at the Council Board as a representative of Chinese interests, public feeling has changed wonderfully in regard to what was at the time considered an altogether unnecessary and extremely ill advised measure. Amongst a certain bigoted and narrow minded class the introduction of the Chinese element as an important factor in the machine of local government, created one of those political typhoons in a tea cup, so frequently associated with colonial autocracies, when the vested interests, imaginary rights or assumed privileges of these self constituted dictators are supposed to be threatened or in any way imperilled by new measures of reform. The Chinese in Hongkong were regarded by the old Tory autocrats as useful, nay as necessary adjuncts to the ordinary commercial business of the port; their influence in all matters connected with trade could not be gainsaid; their material interests, as large property holders, in the welfare of the colony were not disputed; it could not be denied that a vast proportion of the annual revenue was contributed by Chinese; and yet in the face of all this, these peaceable and well disposed subjects of Her Majesty were to be denied the rights, inherent in all free citizens in every civilised nation on the face of the globe, of having a voice in the management of their own affairs, and of being officially treated on an equality with the taxpayers of other nationalities. And so for a time Governor HENNESSY's enlightened action in rudely shaking to the foundations the ridiculous prejudices which had for so long unjustly deprived the Chinese of their privileges, was understood to be unpopular both in the official and unofficial circles in the Colony, and many direful consequences were foretold by short sighted croakers and obsequious toadies of the "wise men from the East" as the certain outcome of what was rather eccentrically styled "revolutionary class legislation." Of course all these dismal forebodings resulted in nothing; things generally soon found their true level, and happily the good sense of the Colony has long since recognised not only that the Chinese are entitled to be directly represented in our local parliament, but that a native unofficial member in the Council is an advantage in many ways to the foreign as well as the native sections of the community. As Sir GEORGE BOWEN points out, representatives of the native communities have for many years held seats in the legislatures of British India, Ceylon, New Zealand and the Straits Settlements; and the opinion of the British Government on the subject and also of the Governor may be gathered from His Excellency's emphatic observation that "one of the six unofficial members will of course be chosen from among our Chinese fellow subjects." We are inclined to think that, considering their large interests in the Colony, the Chinese are fairly entitled to more than one direct representative in the Legislative Council; however, as they are perfectly satisfied with the arrangements of the Government that question need not be discussed.

Mr. NG CHOW has, it is rumoured, taken permanent service under the astute LI HUNG CHANG, so we may reasonably assume that his career as an unofficial member of the Legislative Council has come to a close. The question now to be considered is—who is the fittest amongst our Chinese citizens to take the seat vacated by the learned barrister? We think we are in a position to settle that question to the satisfaction both of His Excellency the Governor and the Chinese community. The Chinese gentlemen in Hongkong who have any real claims to the honourable position of member of the Legislative Council are Dr. HO KAI, Mr. WONG SHING, Mr. LUNG ON, Mr. WU YUK, Mr. LEE TUCK CHONG, and Mr. HO AXI. To take these candidates in the order named, Dr. HO KAI is no doubt fitted by education and natural abilities to take a foremost place in the ranks of his countrymen. This clever young barrister, however, has only been a very short time in Hongkong, so that his practical experience of Chinese matters generally can only be of a superficial character. Besides, although Dr. HO KAI is deservedly respected by all classes in the Colony, he has no commercial status, and could therefore hardly expect to carry the confidence of what is essentially a mercantile constituency. Mr. NG CHOW's profession was certainly nothing in his favor for the position he held, and so, apart from the other drawbacks we have already alluded to, we are inclined to consider that the fact of Dr. HO KAI being a barrister-at-law is decidedly no recommendation for a Chinese member of Council. If only amiability and a high character for uprightness were required, Mr. WONG SHING would make an admirable legislator; but as this gentleman has passed into the serene, yellow leaf, and is of a retiring disposition, takes no active part in the commerce of the colony, and loves a quiet life, besides having taken no pains to qualify himself for such an onerous position as representative of Chinese interests, his claims need scarcely be seriously considered. There are few more popular men in the Colony than Mr. LUNG ON, familiarly known amongst his countrymen as the "joss-man."—This gentleman is frequently resorted to by the mercantile community for advice and assistance in the settlement of disputes arising in the ordinary course of business, and so much confidence is reposed in his integrity and judgment that many cases have been kept out of the law courts, and a goodly number of dollars out of the pockets of the lawyers by the kindly counsel of this exemplary citizen. Mr. LUNG ON enjoys deserved popularity among all classes, and if selected as the Chinese member of the Legislative Council would doubtless do honor to the

appointment. However, Mr. LUNG ON's intimate business relations with the Chinese Government, his position as comprador to Messrs. GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., and his somewhat irresolute character are drawbacks which must not be overlooked. Our Chinese Justice of the Peace, Mr. WU YUK, although only a very young man, has the advantage of a European education, and in addition to possessing a fund of practical common sense in dealing with the ordinary business of life, has great wealth and local influence to recommend him, were there not two insuperable obstacles standing in the way. The Chinese member of Council must be a thoroughly independent man, occupying an independent position. Mr. WU YUK is comprador to the Chartered Mercantile Bank, and this undoubtedly is fatal to his prospects; besides the Chinese community do not wish the representative of their interests in the Legislative Council to be merely the mouthpiece of Mr. James Russell and Dr. STEWART. In Chinese circles Mr. LEE TUCK CHONG is known as a man of remarkable ability, who has figured prominently as a leader of Chinese enterprise; but his knowledge of the English language is so imperfect that he has at present no pretensions to the position with which his name has of late been occasionally identified. The last name on the list is that of Mr. HO AXI, and of all the candidates for Mr. NG CHOW's seat at the Council, he is in every way the most suitable.

Mr. HO AXI is not merely the leader of Chinese enterprise in this Colony; he is a giant amongst men, talented, energetic, practical, experienced, resolute and independent; in every way capable of holding his own with the cleverest men in the East. His liberal views have, principally owing to the indomitable character of the advocate, met with extensive support amongst his countrymen, while his enlightened projects for their general improvement have gained almost universal admiration. It is rather surprising that Mr. HO AXI's claims to the Chinese seat in the Legislative Council as a thoroughly representative leader of his countrymen have not hitherto been recognised; however, as this gentleman is likely to play a most prominent part in the opening out of Southern China to foreign trade and in the introduction of foreign improvements into a country which has hitherto been practically a sealed book to the outer world, we venture to think that the following particulars of the past career of this remarkable man may not be without interest.

Mr. HO AXI was born in 1838 and is consequently in his forty fifth year. He entered the old Anglo-Chinese College under Drs. LODEX and CHALMERS and there laid the foundation of a substantial education. In 1857 when he was nineteen years of age he joined the British Navy as interpreter on board H.M.S. *Nankin* and was present in that capacity at the capture of the Bogue Forts. His naval career was a short one, as we find that in November 1858, he left China for Melbourne, where in 1867 he was the pioneer of Chinese emigration from that city to Dunedin, N. Z. Returning to Hongkong in 1869, Mr. HO AXI became a member of the Imperial Maritime Customs at Canton a month after his arrival but resigned his appointment after six months service. In 1870 he entered the Registrar General's Office, and after two years in that department of the government service (during which time as interpreter he accompanied the Duke of Edinburgh to Canton) resigned in order to accept an important appointment under the Hoppo, which he retained until 1876. In May the following year he founded the On Tai Marine Insurance Company, and three months later the Sheong On Fire Insurance Company sprang into life through his energy. Mr. HO AXI is manager and chief promoter of the Canton-Kowloon Wa Hop Telegraph Co., projector of the new Water Scheme in Canton and also of an extensive Mining Company which is now in course of formation under influential auspices. In 1882 the subject of this brief sketch was elected President of the Board of Management of the Tung Wa Hospital, the highest Chinese position in the Colony, and it is noteworthy that at the election of the Chinese Committee Mr. HO AXI was honored with the largest number of votes. With a thorough knowledge of English, and possessing the entire confidence of the Chinese community, Mr. HO AXI's claims to be named the Chinese member of the Legislative Council will be difficult to overlook. We presume His Excellency the Governor in selecting the Chinese member will be influenced to a considerable extent by the desires of the Chinese community. If so Mr. HO AXI is certain to be named, and should popular election be tried as an experiment he would be returned by an overwhelming majority.

On the 31st of March, 1882, we took the liberty of briefly reviewing in these columns the prospectus issued by Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. for the formation of the Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited, and earned for ourselves a considerable amount of ill will by expressing grave doubts as to the enterprise proving such a remunerative concern as the promoters so confidently predicted. At various times since the Company became an established institution, and even when results and prospects of a most brilliant character were generally understood to have been obtained from the working operations, and the shares were quoted at a high rate of premium, we have considered it our duty to point out that there was evidently some grave misapprehension in this Colony as to the actual state of affairs. From information of a most reliable nature, we were in a position to state that the Luzon Sugar Refinery, on its present basis, was something very like a complete failure; that, in fact, the predictions we indulged in at the commencement had been

practically fulfilled. Of course our statements were not generally credited; Luzon shares were quoted at a premium, and although they fluctuated in value in a manner strongly suggestive of speculative manipulation, nothing reliable seemed to be known of the Company's progress or money earning capacity, and public confidence could hardly be said to have been shaken to any appreciable extent. The report of the General Agents, presented at the meeting of shareholders held a few weeks ago, was the first rude awakening the holders of Luzon scrip received, and the announcement then made that it had been considered desirable to secure the services of an expert to proceed to Manila for the purpose of carefully examining the Company's business and specially reporting thereon, was accepted as a safe indication that prospects were the reverse of rosy. The almost immediate result of the facts brought out at the general meeting was a depreciation in the market value of the stock to the extent of between thirty and forty per cent., and as a matter of course, those speculators who had been "stuck" with the depreciated shares, instead of blaming their own folly and short sightedness commenced to impute motives to the General Agents. For the last three weeks Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. have been subjected to a steady torrent of coarse and virulent abuse from sections of every class of share speculators; they have been blamed for throwing dust in the eyes of the shareholders, censured for allowing the stock to remain so long in a false position, and threatened with direful consequences if they should decline to come forward to the relief of the oppressed plungers by redeeming the scrip at par. Nothing could be more foolish, more unjust than this. So far as we can see, Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. have incurred no responsibility whatever in regard to retrieving the desperate fortunes of any share speculators. The public embarked in the enterprise with their eyes wide open, doubtless anticipating to reap a rare harvest, but at the same time prepared to bear the risks necessarily associated with all such undertakings. Granting that the views of the General Agents have been proved all wrong; and admitting that their sanguine anticipations have not been realised, we think it will be conceded that up to the present time they have done their best for the interests entrusted to their keeping, and have faithfully, according to their lights, carried out the work they undertook to perform. The responsibilities of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. extend thus far—and not one inch further. Whatever else they may choose to do for the Luzon Sugar Refining Company, must therefore be regarded as a generous concession made in the interests of the shareholders.

Early last month Mr. HENRY DICKIE, the manager of the China Sugar Refining Co., went over to Manila at the request of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. to specially report on the Luzon Refinery, and a meeting of the shareholders in the last named concern was held in the offices of the General Agents on Wednesday morning to consider the prepared result of Mr. DICKIE's practical investigations. As a full report of the proceedings at this "gathering of the clans" has already been published, and doubtless fully considered and digested by those most interested, we need only at present refer to a few salient features. In the first place, we think that the Chairman (Mr. F. BULKLEY JOHNSON) was ill advised in objecting to Mr. DICKIE's report being published in the newspapers, and can only marvel that not a single shareholder present had the courage of his opinions sufficiently to protest against a step which can scarcely fail to prove prejudicial to the Company's interests. Says Mr. JOHNSON:—"In reading Mr. DICKIE's report to the meeting I wish to say that I do not propose that that report shall be published in the newspapers, and I hope the shareholders will support me in this. I consider it very inadvisable that we should publish a statement regarding the details of the Company's business which may be injurious to it in the future, but I wish to say that the report will be at the office of the General Agents and will be open to the perusal of every shareholder who wishes it." In what manner the publication of an independent report, the practical character and impartiality of which are beyond question, would be likely to injure the Company's business is altogether beyond our comprehension. Surely the general agents are not afraid of the true state of affairs becoming public property! This strange objection to publicity would appear to strengthen this view. However, as the report was compiled at the special desire of the general agents and consulting committee, it was almost imperative that it should be published through the ordinary channels, no matter how unfavorable its tenor might be. The refusal can only be construed into a sign of weakness, and will most probably defeat the end evidently aimed at by Mr. BULKLEY JOHNSON.

Without going into detail, Mr. DICKIE's report must be accepted as highly unfavorable to the prospects of the Luzon Sugar Refinery, so long as that establishment is conducted on its original basis. During the months of January and February the business has resulted in a dead loss of \$5,000, and Mr. DICKIE has further stated "that at the cost of raw sugar as represented to him, and as it appeared to him to be from the produce of the house was saleable while he was there, the house could not be worked at a profit." Although matters are reported to have improved slightly during the past few weeks, under all circumstances it will be the safest plan to accept the result of Mr. DICKIE's investigations as the basis for future calculations. Therefore, the Luzon Refinery, having, as at present worked, been proved to be a complete failure, the important question is, what alterations, additions or improvements are requisite to make the business a

remunerative one? Mr. DICKIE, it appears, is in favor of the adoption of a system of charcoal refining, and recommends that the Company should immediately set up appliances capable of turning out from eight to ten thousand piculs of refined sugar per month. Admitting that this can only be regarded in the light of an experiment, there certainly appear to be good grounds for believing that refined sugar would find a ready market in Manila, and that the innovation recommended would greatly enhance the Company's prospects. In any case something definite must be done, and as this latest proposal can be carried out, thanks to the liberality of the General Agents, without the shareholders being called upon for a single dollar, its adoption would appear a wise measure.

In the course of other observations Mr. JOHNSON said:—"It is the opinion of the General Agents that a system of charcoal refining, such as that proposed by Mr. DICKIE, should be set up without any delay, but we have to face the question of cost. To erect a system of charcoal refining, I need not say, involves a serious outlay. The General Agents would be prepared to advance the necessary sum on very easy terms to the shareholders for the purpose of enabling this work to be carried out; and I think that is the utmost that can be expected of them. We are not responsible for the calamities of last year or for the change in trade which has defeated all our calculations. But there is another consideration that has been presented to our minds, and that is that the shareholders have passed mainly, or to a very great extent, out of the hands of those who would be quite qualified to bear the burden of this outlay into the hands of those who, I am afraid, would find a depreciation of their property which the debt we would have to incur a very serious affair. Under these circumstances the General Agents have made the following arrangement:—"The concerned in the Weichai Patents in the East will place at the disposal of the General Agents a portion of the purchase price they received from the Company for the patent in the Philippines to the extent of the estimates of cost now prepared of the erection of charcoal appliances at Malabon. Such return of the purchase money to be disposed of at the discretion of the General Agents, and if they so think fit for the purpose of erecting such charcoal appliances at the Company's works at Malabon, or for any other improvement of the Company's property as the General Agents may consider desirable." Gentlemen, these steps, after further examination into the state of affairs at Manila by Mr. Macgregor, will be carried out, if we find them desirable; and I hope the shareholders will in that case consider that the General Agents have discharged all obligations which they can possibly be expected to acknowledge. I shall now be happy to hear any question which any shareholder may have to put regarding the affairs of the Company. If these estimates are correct the shareholders will not have anything to pay for the construction of the charcoal works at Malabon. These estimates cover the cost of the alterations of the machinery, the procuring of the new water supply, and material, and will enable the house to turn out refined sugar to the extent of 10,000 piculs or thereabouts per month.

Nothing could possibly be fairer than this arrangement of the General Agents. The valuable charcoal appliances originally brought out for the old Yengari Refinery are still in Manila and have, we understand, never even been unpacked from the cases. They can, therefore, be erected without any delay, and as they are the latest inventions, if professional opinions may be relied on, they should quickly produce results which will place the Luzon Sugar Refining Company on a firmer basis than it has yet occupied.

It must be gratifying to all who take a true interest in commercial enterprise and the march of progress in the neighbouring empire to know that the Canton-Kowloon telegraph line has at last, after encountering many difficulties, been carried to a successful issue. On the evening of Wednesday the 9th instant, the last of 2562 poles, covering a distance of rather more than 112 miles, was erected at Chin Wan, thus practically completing the electric communication between Canton, the first commercial city of the Chinese Empire, and the great emporium of Hongkong. Owing to the retrograde policy of the Colonial Secretary in refusing to permit the Chinese Company to land the end of their cable on this island, the terminus of the Canton-Kowloon telegraph line will in the meantime be at Chin Wan, where a temporary station is now in course of construction. As soon as the line is ready for the transmission of telegrams from the general public here and in Canton due notice will be given, and steam launches will be employed as the medium of communication between the terminus at this end and the Company's Hongkong office. This arrangement is, of course, merely a temporary one, as it cannot be doubted that the Earl of Derby, who one of the most enlightened statesmen of the age, on having the actual state of affairs properly represented to him, will promptly order the removal of the interdiction which now forbids the connection of the Canton land line with Hongkong by a cable across the Harbour.

We take this opportunity of heartily congratulating the Chinese gentlemen who have supported this project through thick and thin against factious and ungenerous opposition, on having successfully carried out an undertaking which cannot fail to be beneficially affect commercial relations between this port, and the large cities in the adjacent province, and which may not only tend to cement the friendly relations between opposing races, but further has every probability of proving the thin end of the wedge which will shortly open out the whole of Southern China to foreign intercourse and trade.

We have no desire so soon after the arrival of our new Governor to subject to adverse criticism any of his public acts; and we therefore refrain for the present at least, from stating our views relating to His Excellency's exceedingly ill advised and most arbitrary action with regard to the poor Chinese hawkers of this Colony. Sir GEORGE BOWEN is a practical man of the world, so he will not take amiss the honest and straightforward advice we offer him. If His Excellency wishes to govern this Colony successfully he

must see for himself as to his peculiar constitution and requirements. To follow the advice—as His Excellency unfortunately appears to have done—in several instances—of such eminent gentlemen as Mr. J. M. PAICE, and we are afraid we must add, Captain W. M. DEANE, simply means plating the foreign and Chinese elements in a direct antagonism which will create difficulties of a most serious nature.

It is stated that a recent act of Governor BOWEN's has placed over three thousand poor Chinese hawkers in this Colony out of employment. These men, by this official attempt to make the Chinese city of Hongkong a sort of second rate Bond Street, are placed between two alternatives—starvation or plunder. We speak plainly so that His Excellency cannot hereafter say that he acted in ignorance of the probable consequences. On Sunday last, but for the influence of the leading Chinese, the half of this city would have been in ruins before the soldiers or police could have prevented it. The riot would have been quelled, but at a cost of hundreds of lives. A placard has been posted in public places throughout this colony announcing that a general rising against the arbitrary measures of the new Governor will take place tomorrow. This may or may not take place; but if it does, blood will undoubtedly be shed, and the responsibility is Sir GEORGE BOWEN'S. We refrain from further criticising either His Excellency's crusade against a respectable although humble class, or the disaffection his action has created; but respectfully solicit consideration for the following statement of the questions at issue, which we have received from one of the most respected and influential Chinese residents in this colony.

The recent action of the police department in bounding down the unlicensed hawkers so soon after the arrival of Sir George Bowen, has caused a general idea to be prevalent amongst a numerous section of the Chinese community that our present governor is averse to any but well-to-do Chinese living here, and that it was by his orders that the machinery of the law was set in motion to crush that harmless traffic by which a large number of men were enabled to make an honest livelihood by hawking their produce from place to place and supplying the poorer classes with the necessities of life. The police authorities are under the impression that the government has determined to "deprive them of their only means of earning an honest livelihood; and it is well within the bounds of probability that these well meaning but ignorant and easily led people might have been unwise enough to have followed up Chinese traditions by assembling in force to assert their assumed grievances—a course which must inevitably have led to a deplorable display of military force and probably to bloodshed. As this journal can justly claim to possess more than a nominal influence over the leaders of our Chinese fellow subjects, we feel assured that a plain statement of the policy of the government towards the itinerant hawker class, and a true record of what has actually been done by the police authorities to put down what, under certain circumstances, is undoubtedly a public nuisance, will restore matters to their normal condition. The Chinese residents of this Colony, one and all, desire to live peaceably and on the most friendly terms with the other nationalities forming our essentially cosmopolitan community. Our Chinese citizens are peaceful, law-abiding, proud of their status as British subjects, and anxious to conform in every possible way to the rules laid down for their government by Her Majesty's representatives. They are, commercially, the life and soul of the colony; they contribute their fair share to its revenue, and only wish to be allowed the usual rights of free citizenship as natives of China in a British Colony. To this they are justly entitled. Nay, more, it would be more than impolitic, it would be absurdly ridiculous, to expect the lower or even the higher classes of Chinese to conform to English social laws and customs; therefore, an intelligent administration should, in a position, whilst advocating gradual progress, to meet the difficulties of the position by sensible concessions, conformable to the peculiar manners, prejudices and customs of the people. Municipal regulations which will admirably govern an English city, may, from various circumstances that require no explanation, prove altogether inadequate, to meet the peculiar exigencies of a race like the Chinese, and it would admittedly be worse than folly to attempt by force to thrust upon these barbarians, as some of us our transcendent wisdom are pleased to call the Chinese, oppressive measures, which cannot possibly bring benefit to the colony, and which must inevitably operate harshly upon and create dissension amongst a respectable class of hard working people, who only require to be sensibly and intelligently handled to make them useful, peaceful and law abiding subjects.

It has been currently rumoured and believed throughout the colony that no fewer than 300 itinerant hawkers have lately been marshalled before the police magistrates and fined or imprisoned for plying their calling in violation of the laws of the colony. This reported wholesale police raid on these itinerants is, we are pleased to state, utterly without foundation. A reference to the records of the police court will show that from April 7th to May 19th the total number of hawkers brought before the magistrates amounted only to 43—an average of a little over one per day—and out of that number, 30 were charged with carrying on their business in and obstructing the traffic of Queen's Road Central. This we need scarcely say, puts quite a different complexion on the affair. We are prepared now, or at any other time, to maintain and uphold the rights and interests of every section of the community so long as such rights and interests are founded on reason and common sense, but we cannot advocate what can be fairly regarded in the light of a public nuisance. The itinerant hawkers must plainly understand that, although they will be permitted to ply their customary avocations in the Chinese portions of the city without restraint under no circumstances can the practice of blockading Queen's Road Central and obstructing traffic in the distinctly European portions of the city be tolerated. Within reasonable limits, in deference to the peculiar prejudices of the Chinese, the Government will not attempt to prevent the hawkers from earning an honest livelihood. But on principles which these itinerant hawkers are allowed to erect stalls in our principal thoroughfares, and thereby impede traffic to the inconvenience of shopkeepers, merchants, and the European commercial community generally, we cannot see how the Government can be fairly asked to do anything more for them. We therefore look to the Committee of the Tung Wa Hospital, who are the recognised leaders of the Chinese, to represent the unreasonable portion of their community, and to ask them to show to the Government men who indulged in the reprehensible

done my duty in bringing the matter before the notice of His Excellency so that he can gauge with his own eyes whether these sweeping changes amongst the methods of living of the poorer classes of Chinese are absolutely necessary or even wise when it is taken into consideration that the complaints do not come from Chinese sources and that the alleged obstructions mainly exist in China town where Europeans rarely go.

We are very glad to learn, on official authority which cannot be doubted, that the disaffection amongst the Chinese hawkers of the Colony—alluded to at length in yesterday's issue—is based on a misunderstanding of actual facts in regard to the recent action of the police authorities and the policy of the Government. All public grievances are more or less based on exaggerations, and in dealing with this particular question yesterday, we refrained from committing ourselves to any independent expressions of opinion as to matters of fact, principally because we had grave doubts whether the statement of our Chinese correspondent was not, in several respects, a somewhat highly colored description of the actual state of affairs. It must be frankly admitted that a feeling of disaffection does exist amongst the members of the hawker class, who, from the recent action of the police authorities, are under the impression that the government has determined to "deprive them of their only means of earning an honest livelihood; and it is well within the bounds of probability that these well meaning but ignorant and easily led people might have been unwise enough to have followed up Chinese traditions by assembling in force to assert their assumed grievances—a course which must inevitably have led to a deplorable display of military force and probably to bloodshed. As this journal can justly claim to possess more than a nominal influence over the leaders of our Chinese fellow subjects, we feel assured that a plain statement of the policy of the government towards the itinerant hawker class, and a true record of what has actually been done by the police authorities to put down what, under certain circumstances, is undoubtedly a public nuisance, will restore matters to their normal condition. The Chinese residents of this Colony, one and all, desire to live peaceably and on the most friendly terms with the other nationalities forming our essentially cosmopolitan community. Our Chinese citizens are peaceful, law-abiding, proud of their status as British subjects, and anxious to conform in every possible way to the rules laid down for their government by Her Majesty's representatives. They are, commercially, the life and soul of the colony; they contribute their fair share to its revenue, and only wish to be allowed the usual rights of free citizenship as natives of China in a British Colony. To this they are justly entitled. Nay, more, it would be more than impolitic, it would be absurdly ridiculous, to expect the lower or even the higher classes of Chinese to conform to English social laws and customs; therefore, an intelligent administration should, in a position, whilst advocating gradual progress, to meet the difficulties of the position by sensible concessions, conformable to the peculiar manners, prejudices and customs of the people. Municipal regulations which will admirably govern an English city, may, from various circumstances that require no explanation, prove altogether inadequate, to meet the peculiar exigencies of a race like the Chinese, and it would admittedly be worse than folly to attempt by force to thrust upon these barbarians, as some of us our transcendent wisdom are pleased to call the Chinese, oppressive measures, which cannot possibly bring benefit to the colony, and which must inevitably operate harshly upon and create dissension amongst a respectable class of hard working people, who only require to be sensibly and intelligently handled to make them useful, peaceful and law abiding subjects.

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done my duty in bringing the matter before the notice of His Excellency so that he can gauge with his own eyes whether these sweeping changes amongst the methods of living of the poorer classes of Chinese are absolutely necessary or even wise when it is taken into consideration that the complaints do not come from Chinese sources and that the alleged obstructions mainly exist in China town where Europeans rarely go.

absurdity of placarding the walls of this city with notices inciting well disposed citizens to useless acts of violence, the height of their folly and ingratitude. It may be true that this is the custom in some cities; but under a well organized government, such as that which is represented by the British flag, this barbaric mode of protest can expect no consideration. Where well founded grievances exist, no British Governor dare refuse impartial consideration of all complaints affecting the righteous administration of justice and the proper action of the laws. Thanks to Sir John Potts Huxham's position of the Chinese in Hongkong is thoroughly understood at the Colonial Office in London, and throughout Great Britain. Sir George Bowen is, in the main, an exponent of the views of our late Governor. When our Chinese fellow subjects have any just reasons for complaint against the action of our colony's laws, they have only to represent their grievances to His Excellency through the ordinary channel to ensure their receiving ample justice.

In dealing with the difficulties which, in the event of war with France in Tonquin, the Chinese will encounter before they can land the Chihli troops in the Southern provinces, the Shanghai *Mercury* observes: "If Li should, as is reported, take to Canton with him 20,000 or 30,000 men of the forces of Chihli, his difficulties will be immense. First, transport by sea will be requisite, and the China merchant's S. N. Co., fleet is utterly inadequate to take even 10,000 men in six weeks time." Our contemporary must surely have made a great mistake in this estimate! It would appear to us that the vessels of the China Merchants' fleet alone could transport twenty thousand Chinese "braves" from Tientsin to Canton in considerably less time than six weeks; and if despatch were considered a primary object, we are convinced that sufficient transports could be procured to place the whole of Li Hung Chang's trained army in the field in Kwang-si, weeks before French reinforcements could arrive from Marseilles. It is also a mistake to imagine that a Chinese army cannot be supplied with stores and munitions of war at Canton. The Shanghai *Mercury* says it is impossible Li can go to Tonquin either by sea or land, as the French fleet will guard the entrance to Tonquin, and that a march from Canton to Kwang-si or Yunnan of any considerable force is entirely out of the question. This is a puzzle to us. If the Chinese navy is not utterly useless the French squadron at present in the Gulf of Tonquin could scarcely hope to oppose with any fair prospects of success the heavily armed and well appointed rams and gun vessels of the Chinese; but, in any case, Li Hung Chang's troops could be landed without opposition several hundred miles nearer the probable seat of war than Canton; and were it otherwise, a march from the City of Rams to Yunnan is a long way from being the impossibility suggested. At the present moment there are sufficient numbers of Chinese troops on the Annamese frontiers to quickly over-run the country despite of French opposition, and it only wants a declaration of war and the arrival of the Grand Secretary with his disciplined and well armed legions to show that in these days of modern warfare it is utterly impossible for a mere handful of European soldiers, however brave and experienced, to withstand the onslaught of tens of thousands of Chinese armed with breachloaders, and reckless of life. Should the Tonquin dispute between France and China, as appears almost certain, be decided by the waver of battle, whatever the ultimate result of such a conflict may be, it is certain to go hard with the few hundred French soldiers who are at present cooped up in the fortresses of Annam.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

H.M.S. *Audacious*, with Admiral Wiles on board, arrived at Woussong on the 8th inst.

H.M.S. *Albatross*, Capt. Hicks, arrived at Shanghai on the 14th inst. The *Zephyr* left Chefoo for Japan on the 10th.

ACCORDING to the latest news from the wreck of the *Carnarvonshire* the vessel has gone to pieces, so that no hope remains of getting her off. We understand, however, that there is a probability of some parts of the machinery being saved.

UNDER the heading "What British People are saying" the Shanghai *Mercury* says:—"We shall be sorry if France is the first nation that China goes to war with; because then France will have all those nice gunboats."

It is notified in Saturday's *Gazette* that the Governor has approved of a memorial from Messrs. W. H. Marsh, E. O'Rourke, A. Lister, and H. G. Thomson, R.N., to act as justices and Mr. A. B. Johnson as auditor of St. John's Cathedral on behalf of the Government.

SAYS the *Shanghai Courier* of the 8th inst.—H.B.M.'s despatch vessel *Vigilant* leaves for Japan to-morrow. We hear that she is to bring Sir Harry Parkes over to this country, and our readers will be delighted to hear that he is so soon to enter on his duties as British Minister at Peking.

WE (Shanghai *Mercury*) hear that the Eastern Extension will begin work over the wires to Woussong in a few days. The Hsiao Yangtze Cape will not be completed yet. The two cable companies, we understand, are to pay the Chinese Company 4 per cent. on their receipts for the use of the wires to Woussong.

FROM our latest Manila advices we regret to notice that the health of His Excellency the Captain General is in such a dangerous condition that the most serious consequences are anticipated. The owner of the steamship *Cebu* had placed that vessel at the disposal of His Excellency, if he desired to leave the Philippines.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to the *Mercury* under date of Nipogo, 14th May as follows:—"Yesterday a man arrived overland from Shanghai connected with the telegraph-line, and they are now busy at work between Shanghai and Nipogo; they expect to have the two cities in telegraphic communication before two weeks. The Chinese authorities seem to have taken out of their calendar of sleep."

The Russian corvette *Morga* arrived at Shanghai from Nagasaki on the 19th inst.

The first of the new season's tea arrived at Shanghai from Hankow on the 19th inst. by the steamship *Engho*.

We hear that Mr. E. B. Jorey will shortly return to the colony to resume his duties as stockbroker of Her Majesty's Naval Yard.

By private advices from Shanghai we learn that the Chinese fleet of six war vessels, including the old frigate, usually stationed at that port, suddenly left a few days ago—destination unknown.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

We are requested to state that in consequence of the temporary indisposition of Lady Bowen, the Ball at Government House is unavoidably postponed until Thursday, 31st May, when all the invitations already issued will hold good.

We regret to hear that Captain C. Hansen, formerly captain of the German steamer *Wille*, died on the way up from Singapore in the German barque *H. Printenberg*. The deceased gentleman had many friends in the colony who will be grieved to learn of his sudden and unexpected demise.

THE officers of H.M.S. *Cleopatra* gave a most successful dramatic performance in the Amoy Club Theatre on the 9th inst. The pieces performed were the comedietta "A Desperate Game," and Madelon Morton's well known farce "Grimshaw, Bagshaw and Bradshaw." The drama and time band of the *Cleopatra* was in attendance.

THE Portuguese gunboat *Tamagou*, doubtless with Governor da Roza on board, steamed into the harbour as we were going to press. We presume His Excellency has come over intending to honour Her Majesty's birthday by being present at Sir George and Lady Bowen's ball. It is a matter for regret that Senhor da Roza's courtesy will meet with disappointment.

SAYS the *Japan Mail*:—"The question—what is the legal status of an oyster—having been propounded at dinner the other evening in this Settlement, one of our judicial luminaries delivered the following erudite judgment:—"An oyster, from a legal point of view, enjoys privileges as yet denied to man in the most civilized societies, for the oyster can open its own case without shelling out."

FROM a reliable private source we hear that Li Hung Chang, Viceroy of Chihli and First Grand Secretary of the Chinese Empire, was expected to arrive in Shanghai on the 20th inst. According to rumour, His Excellency had the intention of visiting Peking before setting out for Annam, but this is scarcely probable as the order from the Emperor came by wire, and were imperative that Li should journey southward without a moment's delay. In well informed Chinese as well as in diplomatic circles in the north, war between France and China is considered inevitable.

THROUGH the courtesy of the Colonel and Officers of the Buffs, the fine band of the regiment gave their first moon-light performance this season in the Public Gardens last night. The weather was all that could be desired, and the attendance of the general public unusually large. An excellent programme had been arranged by Mr. H. Quinn, the band-master, including selections from the works of Sullivan, Suppé, Waldteufel, Verdi, and Audran, and as the band was in capital form, and played most tastefully, lower of good music enjoyed a rare treat. We trust we may have many such pleasant evenings during the summer.

WE learn that the construction of the Canton-Kowloon Wan Hop Telegraph Co.'s line from Chin Wan to Kowloon was almost completed last night (May 20th), the working party having arrived just below the pass, and close to where the temporary station will be erected. A report from the head office in Canton states that five poles (Nos. 447 to 452) were struck down by lightning on the 17th inst. In consequence of this accident the manager, Mr. Ho Amei, has directed a European engineer, with a body of assistants, to follow the line from here to Canton, and to make all necessary repairs. The line will be opened for public business as soon as these repairs have placed it in proper working order.

SAYS the Shanghai *Mercury* of the 9th inst.:—"There is a rumour to the effect that the Great Northern Telegraph Co. have completed arrangements for the duplication of their cable between Hongkong and Shanghai, and that the cable will be given to the Great Northern Telegraph Co. a new lease of life, speaking metaphorically; but as soon as the Eastern Extension Company complete their lines between this and Hongkong, and the Chinese Government the Tientsin-Kiautschau line, the Great Northern Telegraph Co. will necessarily cease to exist; for the well-known *via Northern* route would thereby be rendered useless. A glance at the map of the Great Northern cables will fully illustrate this."

IN fairness to the Chinese community it is only right we should point out that the references in this morning's (May 23rd) *Daily Press* to the views on the hawker question expressed by the spokesman of the Chinese expatriates, which are quoted on Mr. W. H. Marsh, at Government House on January 15th, are entirely pointless, being based on a misconception of actual facts. The so-called hawker nuisance was never even alluded to in the petition presented to the Administrator, and although Dr. Ho Akai was ill advised enough, on his own responsibility, to make some references to the subject in his address, his views were promptly repudiated by the leading Chinese and Mr. James Russell, who was the Registrar General, was officially requested by the President of the Chinese Hospital to explain to Mr. Marsh that Dr. Ho Akai's sentiments, on what he called the hawker nuisance, had met with general disapproval from the Chinese community. "Whatever may be the intrinsic merits of the case, the Chinese certainly cannot justly be accused of inconsistency."

THE recent proceedings of the Chinese Government with regard to the trade in silk, taken in conjunction with their action in the matter of the cotton factories, seem, says the *Yapen Mail*, to indicate a purpose hostile to the establishment of foreign industries in the Celestial Kingdom. Regulations have been issued according to which transit passes for foreigners purchasing cocoons in the interior will be rendered almost impossible. The price of *silks* has been raised to \$4 per picul for fresh cocoons, and \$12 for dried, so that the operation of supplying the silk factories will become nearly impracticable. "It cannot be denied that in these proceedings the Chinese Government are within the letter of their rights; and that foreigners acted with a little want of consideration when they spent so much money establishing factories which have but a precarious title to exist. Still, it does not indicate a very friendly spirit on China's part that she should set herself now to oppose—(if opposition be indeed her object)—institutions which have been for several years in existence and in connection with which heavy outlay has been incurred. If she merely desires to exercise the right, which she certainly seems to possess, of levying taxes upon goods manufactured by foreigners in China from Chinese raw materials, she might go to work in a more straightforward and less insulting fashion, and would not be likely to experience any great opposition at the hands of the Foreign Representatives."

H.M.S. *Audacious*, *Albatross*, *Cleopatra* and *Pegasus* will leave Shanghai for Chinkiang on the 26th inst. and will probably visit Nanking. The *Vigilant* remains at Shanghai, and the *Caracas* will proceed direct to Chefoo.

LI HUNG-CHANG, says the Shanghai *Mercury* of the 19th inst., is expected here about Monday next, and his agents have been looking out for a house in the foreign settlements for his family, who are to stop here whilst he is away, we believe. As yet they have not found one good enough.

It has been apparent for some time past that the imperfections and inconsistencies of the amended Opium Ordinance produce more difficulties than the police magistrates are possibly able to manage. If the Attorney General can spare time from his many pressing engagements to go carefully through this ordinance, and put it into something within the power of an ordinary comprehension, deal intelligently with, he would be doing good service to the colony. We believe that Mr. Justice Russell is responsible for the merits or demerits of the Opium Ordinance as it now stands; but His Honour has, as present no seat at the Legislative Council, it would probably be asking him too much to expect plain sailing out of what is really confusion worse confounded.

THERE would appear to be still some hope for those gallant warriors, the National Battalion of Macao. It will be observed from our Macao correspondent's letter, published in another column, that Portuguese misgovernment in that province, and in consequence a detachment of regulars from the garrison of the neighbouring city is said to be under orders to proceed to the fertile island in the Torres Straits. In the absence of the Portuguese troops the services of the National Battalion will doubtless be found useful in keeping up the "pride, pomp and circumstance of war" without which "the gem of the Orient East" could not possibly drag out its miserable existence. An attempt has recently been made to extinguish the National Battalion. If the troops are sent to Timor, the hardy warriors of fair Macao will be in a position to checkmate the Portuguese Government. They should strike for higher wages, and proper guarantees that their privileges will be respected. A government that is contented to exist by rapacious and unscrupulous extortion is not deserving of consideration, even from its own subjects.

IF the London and China Express may be relied on, Mr. George Hayward has been confirmed by the Secretary of State in his appointment of Superintendent of Victoria Gaol, in succession to the late Mr. M. S. Tonnochy. "We sincerely trust that our contemporary's information is well founded. Mr. Hayward has acted as superintendent of the Gaol on several occasions with credit to himself and to the advantage of the public service; he has a thoroughly practical acquaintance with the duties, and in fact, a better man for the appointment could not possibly have been selected. We had some fears that the Colony might be burdened with some useless half pay officer, or other Colonial Office hanger-on; however, the Earl of Derby, unlike his predecessor in office, has always been noted for studying the efficiency of the public service in preference to the desires and interests of the cloud of needy relatives and friends on the hunt for well paid government appointments, who are eternally badgering a Cabinet Minister, and so we may perhaps venture to hope that the era of jobbery, so far as colonial appointments are concerned, has for the present ceased to exist. It was time for some such change. Glaring incapacity had been at a premium quite long enough."

THE following proclamation has recently been issued by the Hon. W. H. Treacher, Governor of North Borneo:—"The formation of secret societies amongst the Chinese, being from their very nature subversive of good government and prejudicial to the public peace, has been and is hereby declared entirely illegal, and all persons found promoting or belonging to such organizations, under the name of Chinese secret societies, or under any other name, shall be liable to arrest, and to be followed by permanent deportation. On this point there need not be a moment's doubt, and the Government is determined to exercise its authority to the fullest extent in freeing the territory from evils of this character. The Governor, however, taking into consideration the fact that the Chinese are by nature, clannish, and that their habit is, when settling together in communities, to associate in setting up temples, clubs, trade-guilds, and the like, it is hereby notified that public order and the peace of the colony will not be declared as coming under the interdiction, provided their formation is distinctly reported to the Resident, their several members registered, and their meeting-places, books, and rules, open at all times to police inspection. As regards trade-guilds, it must moreover be clearly understood that the custom so prevalent amongst the Chinese in their own country, and by them thought so harmless, of combining to force prices of commodities, or to exclude individuals from trade, or to set up a monopoly, shall not be tolerated for a moment in this territory. Any individuals or public bodies failing to comply with these provisions will at once lay themselves open to suspicion, and if found guilty will be treated under the category of secret societies. Let all respectfully consider and obey."

WE are under special obligations to Captain W. M. Marshall for affording us some interesting information with regard to the disaffected Chinese hawkers. The statement which appeared one of our reliable contemporaries that some three hundred hawkers had been lately brought before the police magistrates, and fined or imprisoned, is entirely false and misleading. The total number during the past six weeks amounts only to forty-three, and of these, thirty were convicted of obstructing traffic in Queen's Road Central. The government has not even now taken any steps against a numerous body of honest people of their own means of livelihood. So long as the Chinese hawkers peacefully pursue their vocations in the Chinese quarters of the town, and refrain from erecting temporary stalls to the obstruction of public business in the European quarters, the police authorities will not interfere. The general policy of the present Government towards the Chinese is, so far as we can learn, essentially identical with that of his predecessor; therefore our Chinese friends need be under no apprehension that their claims to official consideration will in any way be neglected. The placards posted in various parts of the town threatening violence, if certain undefined concessions were not made by the Government, have received the consideration of the police authorities, and we are authorized to state that no danger need be apprehended. This plan of the Chinese hawkers is a common and uniformly successful custom in Chinese cities of bringing arbitrary Mandarins to their senses, and it has been previously been tried on in Hongkong—without effect. However, whilst making every allowance for the ignorance of these poor people, we think it desirable that the leading Chinese, who undoubtedly possess great influence over their countrymen, should make it plainly understood to these misguided men, that nothing can be obtained from a British Government by threats of violence. Government bows have been publicly stated that he has come here to govern the colony without distinction of class, race, color or creed, so that the Chinese may rest assured that any application properly made to the Head of the Executive will be justly considered.

LUZON SUGAR REFINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary meeting of shareholders in the above named company was held this forenoon (May 16th) at 11.30, in the offices of the general agents, Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co., when there were present the Hon. F. B. Johnson (chairman) Messrs. W. Reiners, F. D. Sassoon, (consulting committee) Wm. Forrest, J. Macgregor, D. Gilles, L. Flemming, C. P. Chater, W. N. Bain, Cawajee, A. G. Stokes, H. G. James, J. J. Bell Irving, W. Legge, W. M. Morgan, J. Bell Irving, A. Cohen, G. C. Cox, J. Y. Vernon, E. Neid hart, and H. C. Maclean, secretary.

After the secretary had read the notice convening the meeting, the chairman said that at the meeting in March last he stated that Mr. Dickie had, with the consent of his employers, promised to go to Manila and prepare for us a special report on the working of the Luzon Sugar Refinery at Malabon. That report was now in his hands and will be laid before you for your consideration. He would read the report and make comments on the same, and state the views held on it by the consulting committee and general agents, and also would be glad to answer any questions which might be put by any of the shareholders relating to the company's affairs. In reading the report it must be understood that it was not to be published in the papers, as it would be inadvisable to publish anything that would be deleterious to the company at the present time. The report would be retained by the general agents but always open for the inspection of shareholders. In the first place he would mention that their best thanks were due to Mr. Dickie for the promptness he displayed in proceeding to Manila to prepare this report and for the care he had taken to make it as complete as possible. There was no more qualified man here, or anywhere else, than Mr. Dickie, and he was sure he had conscientiously performed his duty. Mr. Dickie in his report does not agree with the site chosen for the Refinery. He does not consider it a good one, and states that it is too far from Manila and also that it suffers from want of water. He might state that the reports of other people do not agree with that of Mr. Dickie on the question of site, and Mr. Dickie explains how the water difficulty can be met with and a full supply of water procured. The site was selected after a most careful consideration, and several other sites were examined and not one found suitable. Mr. Dickie on being asked as to what site he would recommend had named Mandalayon, and this could have been bought for a reasonable figure being the property of his firm, Messrs. Jardine Matheson & Co., and we would only have been too glad to sell it, but, in the face of the disastrous failures connected with it, its being exposed to typhoons and the reports concerning it as a site, we could not do so, and had it been selected as a site for the Refinery there would not now have been any sugar works there. The report of Mr. Dickie states that the machinery of the Refinery is in first class order and arrangements could easily be made to arrange it more profitably in the works. Mr. Dickie says that at the cost of raw sugar at the time he was there the house could not pay; but since he left Manila contracts have been made for a supply at such a rate as would leave a small profit. The last letters we have had state that the price of raw sugar has been reduced while that of the production has risen. The demand, as Mr. Dickie says, is a fickle one, and he recommends the use of charcoal in refining owing to the change in the Spanish demand. He (the chairman) does not think it just to have been done by the management in the purchase of raw sugar. Mr. McGregor Smith says that a ring has been formed in Manila which compelled them to buy at high rates or go without. He was happy to be able to mention that Mr. Macgregor, who had great experience in Manila, would proceed to that place this afternoon to make arrangements on behalf of the Company. Mr. McGregor Smith had sent in his resignation last autumn but the general agents could not then accept it as they wished to have the accounts to the end of the year. The general agents had now accepted Mr. McGregor Smith's resignation, as he was sick and was going home almost immediately. Arrangements had been made with a well known firm in Manila to manage the company's affairs, and was the opinion of the general agents that Mr. Dickie's proposal for the use of charcoal should be taken into effect without delay. The general agents were prepared to advance the necessary sum on easy terms to enable the shareholders to carry out such arrangements as were considered necessary, but they did not hold themselves in any way responsible for the working of the past year. He would put the following to the shareholders for their consideration:—

The proposed in the Spanish patent will place at the disposal of the General Agents a portion of the purchase price received from the Company to the extent of the estimates of cost now prepared for the charcoal appliances at Malabon. Such portion of the purchase price to be disposed of at the discretion of the General Agents, and if they so think fit, for the purpose of erecting such charcoal appliances at the Company's works at Malabon, or for any other improvement of the Company's property as the General Agents may consider desirable.

If the suggestions are found desirable by Mr. Macgregor, they will be carried out without delay, and the general agents will then consider that Mr. Dickie's proposal for the use of charcoal should be taken into effect without delay. The general agents were prepared to advance the necessary sum on easy terms to enable the shareholders to carry out such arrangements as were considered necessary, but they did not hold themselves in any way responsible for the working of the past year. He would put the following to the shareholders for their consideration:—

The Chairman in reply stated that Mr. Dickie had said that the Refinery must be conducted under experienced management, and it was the intention of the general agents, as soon as the charcoal was introduced, to engage the services of an experienced manager. Before finally taking the decision of the shareholders there would be another meeting held when full particulars would be produced. "He would like to mention that at the last meeting held, the shareholders were requested to nominate one or two of their number to act on the committee, but none had been nominated. Any two nominated by the shareholders would be accepted by the general agents. He felt bound to say that it reflected little credit on the shareholders if they refused to elect two of their number to assist the general agents and consulting committee in their deliberations."

This concluded the business of the meeting.

LAWN TENNIS.

CANTON v. THE BUFFS.

An interesting double handed match at lawn tennis between Lieuts. Bunbury and Allen of "The Grand Old Buffs" and Messrs. A. B. Tomkins and Holland of the Shamien Lawn Tennis Club was played at Canton on Thursday last, and ended in an easy victory for the last named by three sets to one.

It was arranged to play the best of five sets, and owing to their recent decisive victory in Hongkong over Messrs. C. S. Coxon and Douglas Jones, the Buffs represented, who came to conquer with all their blushing honors thick upon them, were decidedly the favorites, especially as it was known that Tomkins was not in first rate condition. Owing to recent rains the ground was wet and rather slippery, so that quick or particularly brilliant play was out of the question. However, it was quickly seen that, so far as skillful play was concerned, the Canton men were far superior to their opponents. Tomkins played up splendidly, his volleys being a marked feature, while the quickness of his returns and his judicious "placing" proved very effective. The home couple won the first set easily by 6 games to 2, playing well together, whilst the military players were decidedly irregular, Allen especially making a feeble show. The second set was better contested, an exciting struggle ending in favor of Bunbury and Allen by 6 to 5. Tomkins had matters all his own way in the third set, his fine forward play being simply irresistible, and Canton was one set to the good with 6 games to love. In the fourth heat Bunbury pulled himself together a bit and tried hard to retrieve the fortunes of the day, but it was of no avail as they were clearly overmatched, and the set ended in favor of Tomkins and Holland by 6 games to 5, and the match by 3 sets to 1.

Tomkins is immeasurably the best player of the four, and we should place Bunbury, Holland and Allen in the order named. There was a fair number of spectators on the ground and of course the victory of the local men was exceedingly popular.

MASSACRE OF CHRISTIANS IN YUNNAN.

A FRENCH PRIEST KILLED.

April 14th.

I have just arrived in Yunnan Fu, having completed the whole journey from the capital of Shansi in four months and a half. Shocking news has met me here. There has been a fearful massacre of Christians within the jurisdiction of Lung-kang-Hsien, a few days' journey west of Tai-Li Fu. A young French priest and some scores of native converts have, I am assured, fallen victims to the fury of the mob, and all houses belonging to Christians between Lung-kang and Tai-Li have been destroyed by fire. It seems that for a long time great animosity has been manifested against the native churches, and threats have been made to slay all Christians and destroy all their property. Matters came to a crisis about thirteen days ago—I am not sure of the date, for I have just arrived—when a mob of two hundred persons attacked and murdered the Rev. Father Terrence and seven Christians who were with him. The rioters then pursued their course of destruction, their numbers increasing as they went along—butchering every convert they met, and firing all property owned by Christians all along the five or six days' journey to Tai-Li Fu, where the trouble happily stopped. My informant says that the Christians defended themselves in some places so vigorously that their assailants were forced to desist from further outrage.

Yunnan Fu is a terrible state of excitement, and I am told that another massacre was apprehended yesterday; but the ill-feeling was fortunately smothered by the authorities, who will probably take the proper means for arresting the instigators of the outrage who are said to be well known. The affair is likely to cement the friendship of France and China.—*N. C. Daily News*.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by correspondents in this column.]

THE LOSS OF THE "MATARAM."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

SIR—In the *China Mail* of the 7th the following letter signed "An Old Salt" is published:—"I notice by your noon extra that the Dutch Schooner *Mataram* has been wrecked on the Pratas shoal and that the captain and chief mate left the schooner to come here to look for assistance. Does not this look bad that two heads should run away and leave the poor devils to look out for themselves? One generally supposes that the captain should be a man known to the ship, and in your columns for a few words from one who knows something about the circumstances connected with the loss of the above named schooner?"

It appears to me that it is a very unfair thing for a newspaper editor to allow an anonymous correspondent to slander a man who happens to be under a misfortune; and when such slander is utterly false but at the same time calculated to do harm to the person assailed, the newspaper incurs a very serious responsibility. I have never seen newspapers made the means for spiteful and malicious attacks on people by anonymous correspondents excepting in Hongkong, and I think only in the *China Mail*, and feel sure the public cannot approve of such disgraceful proceedings.

"An Old Salt" might have been more generous than to have thrown such nasty insinuations on men under misfortune, especially as he was quite ignorant of the circumstances to which he made allusion. So that there should be no mistake as to the actual truth, I beg to state for "Old Salt" information that the Captain of the *Mataram* was actually the last man to leave the wrecked vessel, and also that neither the Capt. nor the Chief Mate "ran away" from the crew, and "left the poor devils to look out for themselves," but actually risked their lives to try and obtain needed assistance, doing the only thing that could be done under the circumstances, and being the only two men belonging to the ship able to do it.

After reading this and the report of the loss of the *Mataram*, "An Old Salt," if he knows what shame is, should feel heartily ashamed of himself.

Yours truly,
A YOUNG SALT.
Hongkong, May 9th, 1883.

THE LUZON SUGAR REFINERY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

SIR—Referring to your very excellent leader in last night's issue on the above subject, I think that many like myself applied for shares in the company with the full assurance that a firm held in such high esteem in the East as Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. would only support by their influence the promotion of a genuine undertaking. Unfortunately, through bad management—we are told—the past year's working has been a failure; it is also stated that a ring had been formed in Manila to "crush the Company," and it was on this account the raw sugar cost so much. We are not told who formed this ring—but no doubt time will show. At all events we are now assured it is broken; and by the noble generosity of the Agents, who wish practically to prove their sincerity in upholding the shareholders' interests, the whole affair is to be pretty well re-modelled, without costing us "a single dollar."

From the constant information from private and other sources it is acknowledged on all hands that under proper management, together with the proposed alteration of the machinery, the Refinery can be made to justify the fullest confidence of the Agents. They have evidently taken the matter up in real earnest, and I doubt not but that a few months will more than justify the faith many of us have throughout put in their assurances. If the shareholders will only have patience and wait—instead of so recklessly becoming the victims of the present panic, their fullest hopes in the future prospects of the company will I think be realized.

"After a storm—there always comes a calm." Let holders of Luzon shares wait for the turn of the tide and all will be well.

Yours, &c.,

A SHAREHOLDER.

Hongkong, 19th May, 1883.

MR. HO AMEI AND THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

SIR—Referring to your able leader of the 19th inst. allow me to say that your review of the qualifications of the several candidates for the post of Chinese member of the Legislative Council was well defined. I quite concur with your opinion that Mr. Ho Amei is the best man. It is needless for me to add anything after all you said about his character and abilities, still I may say, and without fear of contradiction, that a more honest, intelligent, and independent Chinese gentleman cannot be found in the Colony, and I feel confident that his appointment to represent our interests in the Legislative Council would give universal satisfaction throughout the Chinese community.

Thanking you for inserting these few lines.

Yours faithfully,

A CHINESE RESIDENT.

Hongkong, 22nd May, 1883.

THE CHINESE GRAND SECRETARY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH."

SIR—The Shanghai *Mercury* of the 9th inst., in commenting on Li Hung-chang styles him "China's Sham." This has brought to my mind the fact that Li has on various occasions been known to quote the great Emperor's saying and assert that "the Yellow River is China's Sorrows." The Grand Secretary may truly be credited with knowing that China has never in its history known a more likely to enter into an insane convention; a man, highly cultivated from his early youth, a statesman by birth and education, a man who inherited wealth and who was entrusted solely, with the performance of a very delicate diplomatic duty; or a man to a great extent self-made by squeezing the lower classes, by winking at the cultivation of the poppy around his own yamen; a man who after brutally and dishonourably murdering the officials at Soochow, whose lives, he, in concert with Colonel Gordon R.E., had pledged his word of honour to spare, fed like a cur from the wrath of Colonel Gordon, a (to use Darwin's words) philosophical rhetorician, imbued with the exuberance of his own verbosity, and gifted with an egotistical imagination that can at all times command (with the aid of his six prompters) an interminable and inconsistent series of arguments to malign an opponent and to glorify himself? Which, I repeat, of these two men do you consider the most likely to enter into an insane convention?

As I write I hear that Li is appointed to take supreme command of a large army in Annam to oppose the French; if this be so I expect he will keep at least five miles in the rear of all fighting, as he did in the rear of Colonel Gordon's ever victorious army. To do this would be wise on his part, for when *retreat* is sounded he will have a good start and thereby an excellent opportunity of preserving his valuable existence.

Were it not for the wide spread mischief created by this ambitious intriguer, whose bolstered position in this semi-barbarous country carries weight (not any estimable qualities in himself) and that I consider it necessary to denounce this Iniquitous Viceroy who has paid English journals to speak favourably of him (a fact which would stand anywhere as conclusive evidence as to the veracity of all my remarks about him) I would not occupy so valuable time in noticing Li Hung-chang's such length.

Li is credited by some as being a man of liberal mind and only prevented from pushing forward western civilization by the Government at Peking. A greater fallacy never existed; this man and Tao Tsung Tang are immensely anti-foreign in principle and Li holds the power of a despot in China. I believe he is merely waiting for the day when he will try to install himself as Supreme Ruler of the Flowery Land, flooding blood mercilessly if necessary in order to gain this object. He may, however, be aiming at the overthrow of the present dynasty by means of embroiling his country in a war with a European power. Does he think such a scheme would prove successful? Does he imagine that in the event of such a catastrophe happening he would be countenanced as a man of importance and one whose voice must be heard? If so, I can only give it as my opinion that he will find himself totally mistaken, his power would go, his influence would be driven away from this great empire like chaff before the wind.

Asking you to kindly grant me space in your columns for the foregoing remarks.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

UBIQUITOUS.

Shanghai, 16th May, 1883.

[As we desire to encourage freedom of opinion and discussion on all public matters and men, we gladly make room for our correspondent's letter. We must distinctly state, however, that we do not at all agree with our friend's estimate of Li Hung-chang. Judging from what the great Viceroy of Chihli has done for his country in the past, it is not what he appears likely to do in the future. We should strongly believe in designating Li Hung-chang "China's Sham."—Editor *H.K. Telegraph*.]

SHANGHAI SPRING RACES.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)
STEWARDS.—H. De C. Forbes, Esq., J. M. Ringer, Esq., W. Patterson, Esq., A. McLeod, Esq., St. C. Michaelson, Esq., A. Myburgh, Esq., E. O. Arbuthnot, Esq.
FOURTH DAY—SATURDAY, MAY 5TH, 1883.
Our "Off-Day's" racing, which had to be postponed on account of the heavy rains, came off to-day under most favorable circumstances, the weather being perfect, and the course in good going order. The attendance both of foreign and Chinese was very large, and all seemed to enjoy the day's sports immensely. Picaroon opened the programme by winning the half mile race in a common canter from a good field, but later on in running for the Bookmakers' Cup, a one mile race, he was easily defeated by Muffi, a very second class griffin. Picaroon is a fine slashing pony, and of excellent class, for although he cannot at present get beyond half a mile in good company he is only five years old, and so promising that I fully expect to see him stretch the necks of such flyers as Wild Dash, Prejudice, Torpedo, and First Comet a couple of seasons hence, if he is not raced to a standstill out of his distance, and made a wretched cur by injudicious training. Chatterbox, contrary to general expectation, suffered defeat in the Grand National Steeplechase, the distance favorite being beyond the tail of Mr. Mat. Dawson's handsome grey. Earl Eric, admirably ridden by Mr. Nicholson, cut out the work at such a pace that he had his field beaten a long way from home. Astrologer was another animal greatly fancied for the Grand National; but although he managed to negotiate the course he was never in the hunt with Earl Eric and Chatterbox, and finished a back fourth. The Torpedo Cup, presented by Mr. St. Andrew, was won in a great surprise. Black Diamond and Sulla coupled were freely backed against the field, but the little thought of Safety galloped his opponents to a complete standstill, and came in full of running in a shade over 3-18—a performance which stamps the winner a good pony when properly ridden. The Bookmakers' Cup had better be left alone. How a rank duffer like Muffi managed to beat Second Violin at a mile nobody can understand, and the time—2:11—only makes matters more difficult to fathom. Nobody believes that on his merits the handsome bay—who showed pretty good form in the Consolation—could possibly play "second fiddle" to a brute like Muffi; on this occasion the instrument must have been out of tune somehow. The race for the Mafoos' Champions was a very interesting one, old Jolly Friar eventually winning easily from Affrejo, Ambassador and a good field. The following are the particulars of the various events:—
HALF-MILE RACE, for all China Ponies that have run in Shanghai; a Sweepstakes of \$5 each, weight for age, to be run at 120 lbs. extra for the race, odds, additional for each over one. Half-a-mile.
Mr. Aulus's Picaroon 1st. 8lb. Mr. Dunman 1
Mr. Rodney's Adventurer 2nd. 7lb. Mr. Dallas 2
Mr. St. Vincent's General 3rd. 4lb. Mr. Sampson 3
Mr. Wynn's Footlights, 2nd. 7lb. Mr. Nicholson 4
Mr. Tell's Lucifer 1st. 7lb. Mr. Ruegg 5
Won in a common canter; three lengths between second and third. Time 6:18 seconds.
THE CHEAPERS' CUP, value, \$100, presented for Griffins that have run and not won a Race at this Meeting; weight for inches per scale, entrance, \$5, to go to the second pony. Three-quarters of a mile.
Mr. Kelly's Myrtle 1st. 11lb. Mr. Dunman 1
Mr. Henry's Venetia 1st. 11lb. Mr. Nicholson 2
Mr. Kesteven's V. C. 1st. 11lb. Mr. Easton 3
Mr. Jos's Antelope 1st. 11lb. Mr. Easton 4
Mr. Jos's Antelope 1st. 11lb. Mr. Easton 5
Mr. Jos's Spiritus 1st. 11lb. Mr. Easton 6
Mr. Goldolph's Safety 1st. 11lb. Mr. Bidwell 7
Mr. Bill's Amoretto 2nd. 12lb. Mr. Ehlers 8
Mr. Aulus's Black Diamond 1st. 11lb. Mr. Dallas 9
Mr. Pallet's La Rose 2nd. 12lb. Mr. Reynell 10
Mr. Edmund's Memo 1st. 11lb. Mr. Wingrove 11
Won cleverly by two and a half lengths; a fair third. Time 1:32.
THE GRAND NATIONAL STEEPLECHASE, value, \$100, added to a Sweepstakes of \$15 each; second pony, \$15, 30; for China Ponies; weight for inches per scale, with 7lbs added; twice round a Course selected by the Stewards.
Mr. Orr's ch. Earl Eric, 11st. 5lb. Mr. Nicholson 1
Mr. Mat. Dawson's gr. Chatterbox, 11st. 11lb. Mr. Baker 2
Mr. Weed's gr. Kebir, 11st. 5lb. Mr. Malherbe 3
Mr. Vyvan's gr. Astrologer, 11st. 8lb. Mr. Winle 4
Mr. Oxley's gr. Opismeter, 11st. 11lb. Mr. Sampson 5
Mr. Bill's ro. Saccato, (late Scotch Red), 11st. 11lb. Mr. Hart-Duck 6
Mr. Bill's gr. Allegretto, 11st. 11lb. Mr. Rutledge 7
Mr. Bill's gr. Ritenuto, 11st. 11lb. Mr. Gun 8
Won easily by several lengths; a bad third. Astrologer was fourth, and none of the others got over the course.
THE BOOKMAKERS' CUP, value, \$100; presented, for all Ponies that have run and not won a Race at this meeting; weight for inches per scale. Entrance, \$5, to go to the second pony. One mile.
Mr. Edmund's Muffi, 11st. 11lb. Mr. Bidwell 1
Mr. Aulus's Picaroon, 11st. 12lb. Mr. Dallas 2
Mr. Bill's Second Violin, 11st. 4lb. Mr. Gun 3
Second Violin was backed against the field, but there was a screw loose somewhere and Muffi won in a common canter in the wretched time of 2:11.
THE MAFOOS' RACE, for Ponies that have run at this Meeting, winners at this Meeting excluded; weight, 7lb. entrance, \$5. Once round; native Riders in Racing Colours; the Stakes to be handed to the Riders as follows:—The Winner, 5/8ths; second rider, 2/8ths; third rider, 1/8th.
Mr. Paul's Hompipe, 9st. 7lb. Punch 1
Mr. Paul's Castigator, 9st. 13lb. Toad 2
Mr. Arthur's Fall Mall, 9st. 8lb. Archer 3
Mr. Arthur's Charing Cross, 9st. 5lb. Leeshun 4
Mr. Paul's Sunlight, 9st. 7lb. Horse 5
Mr. Henry's Dictator, 9st. 8lb. John Scott 6
Mr. Bill's Second Violin 9st. 4lb. Shuman 7
Won by half a length; a dead heat for second place.
THE TORPEDO CUP, value, \$100; presented; for all Griffins that have run at this meeting and not won a Race; weight for inches per scale; entrance, \$5, to go to the second pony. One mile and a half.
Mr. Goldolph's Safety 1st. 11lb. Mr. Bidwell 1
Mr. Ring's Sulla 1st. 7lb. Mr. Meyerink 2
Mr. Aulus's Black Diamond 1st. 11lb. Mr. Dallas 3
Mr. Henry's Silletto 1st. 4lb. Mr. Nicholson 4
Mr. Henry's Silletto 1st. 4lb. Mr. Rutledge 5
Mr. Bill's Antelope 1st. 11lb. Mr. Easton 6
Mr. Stephen's V. C. 1st. 11lb. Mr. Easton 7
Mr. Tell's Lucifer 2nd. 7lb. Mr. Ruegg 8
Mr. Kesteven's V. C. 1st. 7lb. Mr. Easton 9
Mr. Kelly's Myrtle 1st. 11lb. Mr. Dunman 10
Mr. Edmund's Muffi 1st. 11lb. Mr. Malherbe 11
Mr. Kelly's Springs 1st. 11lb. Mr. Sampson 12

Won in fine style by a length, with Black Diamond a fair third. Time 3:18.
THE MAFOOS' CHAMPION RACE, for China Ponies the property of Members of the Shanghai Race Club, weight, 7lb. entrance, \$5.—once round; native Riders in Racing Colours; the Stakes to be handed to the Riders as follows: the Winner, 1/2; second rider, 2/8ths; third rider, 1/8th.
Mr. St. Andrew's Jolly Friar, 9st. 11lb. Shuman 1
Mr. Bill's Allegro, 9st. 7lb. Shuman 2
Mr. St. Vincent's Ambassador, 9st. 7lb. School 3
Mr. Arthur's Belgavia, 10st. 4lb. Leeshun 4
Mr. Arthur's Picadilly, 9st. 7lb. Archer 5
Mr. Stephen's Onie, 9st. 7lb. Monkey 6
Mr. Edmund's Northesk, 9st. 7lb. Chioy 7
Mr. Henry's Venetia, 9st. 7lb. Joly 8
Won easily by three lengths, the winner of the Consolation finishing a good third.
THE BEATEN STAKES, for all Ponies that have run at this Meeting and have not been placed; Sweepstakes of \$5 each; weight for inches per scale. One mile.
Mr. Stephen's Onie 1st. 11lb. Mr. Reynell 1
Mr. Bill's Spicatus, 11st. 11lb. Mr. Gun 2
Mr. Kelly's Rosemary, 11st. 7lb. Mr. Sampson 3
Mr. Armin's Maximilian, 11st. 11lb. Mr. Ehlers 4
Mr. Edmund's Swap, 10st. 12lb. Mr. Wingrove 5
After a show of a race Uno easily beat the Hongkong Derby impostor by a length and a half, a similar distance separating second and third. Time 2:11.

THE DISTURBANCE AT THE KIANGNAN ARSENAL.

A few evenings ago we informed our readers that a riot, or, more correctly speaking, an insurrection had broken out amongst the workmen of the Kiangnan Arsenal. We are now in a position to give a strictly authentic account of what still promises to be an affair of importance. The management of the Arsenal for many years past has been entrusted to Li Tsjen, under whose auspices new departments have been established and brought into working order, and old ones extended and reformed. The most cordial relations existed between the chiefs and the employees, both native and foreign; although the ideas of the foreign chiefs of departments were not adopted, nor the work carried on with the enthusiasm and energy wished for, still the work progressed slowly, if surely, and was of such a standard as to raise the Shanghai Arsenal far above that of its rivals. Beyond this, and which perhaps is of greater importance than speed, a quality of execution, a number of men were gradually being trained to work with an eye to exactness and finish and an honest love of good work, which must have had its moral as well as its technical influence on their character. They were thus less prepared to submit to the exactions of insolence and ignorance, which, dressed in a little brief authority, were so soon to disturb the even tenor of their ways. Attached to the Arsenal is a Translation Department, which prides itself upon being the pure intelligence and reason of the whole establishment, as distinguished from the vulgarly practical or profiting pen of it—and, like Dickens's barber, draws the line at the grimy ones. The presiding genius of this sanctified quadrangle is a Mr. Hui, into whose control the so-called Polytechnic Institution and its funds have gradually glided—and whose nephew was supposed to be the curator or presiding genius of that sham also. He is assisted by his two sons, and they are so clever that he is enabled to confine his attention almost exclusively to the study of the distillation and reduction of the "paper semper unum" by the pneumatic bamboo process. When it is stated that one son has acquired all that has ever been known in geology, metallurgy, astronomy, photography, chemistry, electricity, natural science, and the studies of which Foreigners of the highest intelligence assume to master, but one alone in a life time, it will be seen that such vulgar affairs as the manufacture of torpedoes, Remington rifles, and Armstrong guns must be well within his reach, especially when assisted by his brother, who has been in Europe, where he became sufficiently advanced to return and build, or begin to build, an Arsenal, which unfortunately, the important item of foundations being on a new principle, is now a heap of ruins. Now, the senile Tsung-tung sends a Mandarin, Feng, formerly employed at the Arsenal, to take charge, and replace Li Tsjen as manager. Li, says Li, and retires, to the regret of every one. Feng brings his usual record of impetuous squire hunters, and with a sympathy for the elder Hui's tastes, being himself interested in similar studies, places these two encyclopedias, his sons, who never did five minutes' practical work in their lives, in charge of all departments with a *carta blanche*. Then is seen the result of the influence of their highly trained intellects over that of the regular mechanic. Shut up the Torpedo Factory, as being able to teach nothing more! Close the Rifle Factory as useless and expensive! Throw hundreds of men out of employ at a day's notice and make those remaining work an hour earlier in the morning and an hour later at night, 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and that at reduced wages! This was their programme. As they can't do without the Armstrong gun factory, go over and drive the engine faster, insist on heavier cuts and quicker speeds; break tools, straps, and machines, and then insolently and arrogantly abuse the mechanic for accident, which the common sense predicted; and when finally convinced by actual experience that the vulgar mechanic was right and the refined intelligence was wrong, allowing the brute to predominate and proceed to blows. The practical stood it patiently, until intellect appealed to force, and when practice applied it in return, intellect ran for its life, and infuriated the trained master of the field, after insisting on the removal of obnoxious intellect. That the lives of these two ignoramus were spared is due to the interference of Mr. Chai Lo-yao, the second director, who is much esteemed and who is badly bruised, but we are glad to say, not seriously hurt. The workmen then shouted for the Manager Feng, who, however, in response disappeared more quickly than he came. Now the usual placards foreshadowed plainly what would and did occur—and the Manager, Feng and the Hui clique are using their utmost influence to give a colour to their acts by trying to arrest and dismiss the workmen whom Hui assaulted; but the men had him under safeguard, and more placards are being printed and distributed stating the terms of the men; viz, that the Hui shall be removed, which has really been done, for their career must now according to Chinese custom and law be virtually over, and that if the workman whom Hui assaulted is interfered with in any way, every man in the Arsenal will stand with him. And the 25 per cent on the army and navy, but allows about 10 per cent to ordinary public works, and about five thousand dollars for public instruction, some minor expenses, not being taken into account. This comparison is really crushing to this retrograde city.

The Hui who struck the workman was but recently removed from the Polytechnic and is no more worse than the other two who ordered and abetted his exactions by all means in their power. Thus, in a few days—where nothing but peace and progress was known—discontent and mutiny reign. The men show their superiority to their masters, in that having once demanded the deposition of the obnoxious Hui, and the demand being assented to by the frightened Feng, they returned quietly next morning to their work. They now placard their demand for the cessation of all steps against their fellow workman who was assaulted, under the threat of a universal strike, and as they are determined and resolute, it will be interesting to watch the course of events and see which wins. On either hand, as it seems to us, the workmen have the best of it and nothing but defeat awaits the new clique of reorganizers who have thus disorganized a previously well-conducted institution.—Shanghai Mercury.

MACAO.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)
MACAO, 17th May, 1883.
Warlike news from Timor is coming down upon us thick and fast. The last mail brought intelligence of the revolt of some ten thousand natives, who, after insulting the Portuguese authorities, in their own way, hoisted up a red flag on the approach of a steam yacht conveying troops from Delhi to the province or kingdom of Itucubaba, fired on the landing party and hoisted the gunboat as she discharged her broadside, damaging a few of the cocoa-nut trees. The cause of the revolt is said to be owing to undue exaction of taxes by the Portuguese Government, who seem to be at the head of financial matters, having been compelled to borrow money from private individuals in order to pay the Government officials, in February and March last. It is reported that an auxiliary force is going to leave this for Timor shortly. May the god of war lead them to victory. While Portuguese influence in that island is so fast decreasing, it is encouraging to see how prosperous the natives of Timor are under Dutch rule. There is scarcely any sign of disturbance in that country. Dutch portion of Timor is conspicuous for its commercial prosperity, and for the contentment of its people. As a colonial nation, the Dutch are now far ahead of their old rivals in the East, their settlements in Java and in Timor greatly surpassing in the wisdom and liberality of their laws, in progress and in civilization those cramped up Portuguese possessions which go by the pseudonym of colonies! Reverting to Macao, nothing further has transpired since our last communication. The Governor in Council had taken steps to employ large sums from the Treasury in ameliorating the distresses of this colony, improving the condition of its harbour and in other urgent public works. They remain *in statu quo*, and we deserve to do so. Portugal is evidently gambling the colony away, contented so long as the metropolis can draw hard money from our immoral sources of revenue. The home authorities are not in the least interested in the well-being of the colonies. The colonial authorities look only after their own personal interests. Anything that does not promote directly or indirectly their material prosperity, is quite foreign to them. As half of our population derive their means of subsistence from the civil list, their status as citizens is simply *nil*. Their constitutional liberties are sunk in an abject party spirit. They are apt to nod assent to the most extravagant measures adopted by their ultra-retrograde masters. The other half of the population is unfortunately so poor through the total absence of trade, that they are quite powerless to speak to protest and to act. How long this state of things will prevail, it is impossible to foretell. But it is earnestly to be hoped, that some providential sweeping lesson may sooner or later scatter to the winds that ignominious system of colonial policy which the step-mother country is enforcing upon her derelict dependency of the Far East. (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)
MACAO, May 10th, 1883.
The past week has been productive of some news in this secluded city. After Governor Rosa's assumption of office, and the ceremonies attending thereto, public attention has again been called to the ominous reports of defalcations in the Treasury. The Committee appointed to inspect the accounts and books of that mysterious institution, the Board of Exchequer of Macao, have not completed their labours yet, and it is doubtful whether their report will be published at all. It is suspected by some that the supposed deficit originated mainly through the excessive liberality of a chief functionary, now gone over to the majority, in advancing money to public employees, who adopted the extraordinary system of never returning it. However, the sum of seven thousand dollars is considered by some as an enormous sum to be so liberally lent without good securities. Governor Gracia's voracity is hinted at, as one of the causes of unregistered expenses. He simply compelled the Junta to hand him some \$3,400 before his departure for Lisbon; of course this abnormal concession was registered; but how much more could he not have demanded and received! It appears he used to have his servants and coolies paid by the public, and went so far as to charge the public supply of wicks for his lamps, to the Colonial Treasury! The new treasurer has not yet been appointed. Several candidates have laid a claim to that office, doubtless allured by the magnificent salary of some fifty dollars per mensem. A Government Council met a few days ago, and Mr. Rosa's happy thought of suspending the execution of the late plundering Decree from Lisbon, which demanded fifteen thousand milreis and the whole surplus from the colony, was unanimously approved; and a telegram was immediately sent to the metropolis requesting special authority for doing this measure. It was reported yesterday that a reply had been received, authorizing the Governor to modify the Decree in such a way as to meet the present requirements of the colony. *Si vera est fama*, this is auspicious news, and Governor Rosa may be proud of having taken the initiative. But I am inclined to take the whole affair *cum grano salis*, as very little confidence is here entertained towards either the step-mother-country or her colonial representatives. A revolt was very nearly breaking out at the Infantry Barracks yesterday, sixty soldiers having refused to march out to a general parade of the battalion. The commander took energetic measures on the spot; and it is said the defaulters are going to feel the severity of our martial laws. To-day's *Macaense* contains an elaborate article about the public expenditure of Macao. You will be surprised to hear that out of \$42,000 spent yearly here and in Timor, the army and navy absorb 38 per cent, while public works get only 3 per cent, and public instruction 3 per cent, the remaining balance being punctually remitted to Lisbon. Hongkong spends only 25 per cent on the army and navy, but allows about 10 per cent to ordinary public works, and about five thousand dollars for public instruction, some minor expenses, not being taken into account. This comparison is really crushing to this retrograde city.

AMOY.

Mr. H. Cockburn, Assistant, H. B. M. Consulate, Amoy, arrived on the 7th inst. in the steamer *Hwai Yuen* from Shanghai. An Express was sent round yesterday announcing that the Officers of H. B. M. S. "Cleopatra" propose giving a Dramatic Performance on Wednesday the 9th instant, in the Club Theatre, for the benefit of the Amoy Chinese Hospital. The Performance will commence with the commedia *A Desperate Game* and conclude with the farce *Grimshaw Bagshaw and Bradshaw*. Admittance 5s. Doors open at 8.30 to commence at 9 P. M. There will be a dress rehearsal to-day commencing at 6.30 P. M. to which children are invited to come. We learn that the Commissioner of Customs at this Port has issued a Chinese Proclamation forbidding the export of iron pans locally manufactured by foreigners. The following is a translation:— Brown, Commissioner of Customs at Amoy, decorated with the Precious Star of the First Class, Official of the 3rd Brevet Rank, &c., &c., issues a proclamation. Whereas a despatch has been received from the Inspector General of Customs, conveying instructions from the Tsung-li Yamen to the Commissioners of Customs at the Treaty Ports as follows:— "Whenever foreign merchants convey iron pans it is to be carefully ascertained whether these are of native manufacture or foreign are to be regulated in accordance with Treaty Rules. In cases of foreigners bringing iron to the port and there manufacturing into pans, any attempt to import or export such pans at any of the ports is to be prohibited as soon as discovered. The Board may issue this proclamation for the information of all merchants, and it is hereby notified that from this date iron pans manufactured by Chinese or in foreign countries may by the regulations be freely imported or exported. But pans manufactured locally by foreigners from iron brought to the port, may neither be exported nor imported. Let all obey this notification &c." Kwangsu gth Year 3rd Moon 20th Day—26th April, 1883.—Gazette.

FOOCHOW.

We are pleased to note that the Foochow Amoy Courier Line has opened for the season; the first courier having been despatched on Tuesday afternoon last. The scandalous case of illegal seizure of merchandise the property of a British merchant, to which we alluded in our last issue, has been amicably settled by the simple restoration of the property. We hence that the Chinese Authorities now clearly understand that in the event of a repetition of such offence, and violation of the Treaty, amended similar to those recently accepted, will henceforth be of no avail, and that the consequences will be serious. We hear that the Taotai Yeh has just lost his mother, and will go into mourning for three years. This Mandarin, assisted by the Taotai Fan, has always treated business matters with foreigners in a satisfactory manner, and it would have been desirable that Fan should have been appointed to succeed Yeh as Grain Taotai. We regret to learn, however, that the high authorities have selected P' An, formerly Lekin Wei Yuen, as Yeh's successor. We hear that P' An has had no experience in dealing with foreign affairs—knows nothing of the Treaty—and has never been suspected of possessing any special ability.—Herald.

SHANGHAI.

The watermark at Hankow on the 5th instant was 25 ft. 9 in. Mr. O. N. Denny, United States Consul General, we are glad to hear, will arrive here in the next M. B. steamer, to resume his duties at this Port. The Eastern Extension Co.'s Cable will be landed at Woosung at once, so as to enable the company to connect by wire with the Yangtze Cable is ready to receive the shore ends. We are informed that the terms to be paid by the foreign cables to the Chinese are less onerous than those we stated the other day. We are informed that the German barque *Francis and Amanda*, from Yokohama to Newchwang, was lost on the 21st ult. She ran ashore on a bank about ten miles from the Newchwang lightship, during a fog, and became a total wreck. She has since been sold by auction, fetching about \$100. At the dog refuge near the City Gates, there are 450 dogs, most of them mad. They pass the day principally in biting each other. Some twenty Ratersayers ought to sign a requisition for an Extraordinary General Meeting of Ratersayers in order to have an order given to the police to kill without delay all the stray dogs in the Settlements, and so do all that can be done to repress this ghastly system of propagating the horror of death by wounds until the Yangtze. The *Stachel*, German frigate, arrived here yesterday from Amoy. She was anchored in the fairway opposite the P. & O. Jetty. A rather dangerous place for ships proceeding up the harbour. She has, however, now been removed to one of the naval buoys. H. M. S. *Vigilant*, despatch gun-boat, arrived here to-day. She left the flag ship *Audacious* near the Chusan Islands, with Admiral Villiers on board, which was expected at Woosung yesterday, and if so will be in the harbour to-morrow or Wednesday. The Chinese Telegraph Co., has made an arrangement with the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co., we understand. The Chinese Co. is to stretch a land line from the Arsenal to the Yangtze Cape. The Eastern Extension have moved their cable to the Yangtze Cape. The distance is 136 ft. from Shanghai via the Arsenal to the Yangtze Cape. All messages will then have to be conveyed by the Chinese line, which will be worked by Chinese operators. The Chinese Government Telegraph will receive 5 per cent on the cost of all the messages, which at present rates would amount to \$36,500 a year. A foreign Superintendent is to be stationed at each telegraph office on the Cape-Shanghai line. The Great Northern Telegraph Co. will be asked to move its cable to the Yangtze Cape and necessary will be paid for the land line. All cables are to be landed at the Yangtze Cape, and no line constructed thence to Shanghai, but the Government land-lines will be ready in ten days after the contract with the Eastern Extension is stamped by the Viceroy and the Taotai. The latter has it now in hand. We may remark that the place at which the cables are to be laid is called *Yangtze Kou*, or mouth of the Yangtze by the Chinese.—*Mercury*. Eighty-eight native passengers arrived at Tientsin during the year 1882, aggregating a tonnage of 29,090 tons, of which the German flag represented 11,770 tons, while the British covered 10,309 tons of the tonnage. The steamer *Albatross*, which has gone to Hankow to load tea, belongs to the Mutual S. N. Company. She is a new steamer, having only made one voyage to Australia previous to her present trip. She is a fast boat, and will probably come in third in the tea race, if not second.

MANILA.

(Translated from *El Comercio*.)
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